

Hafa Adai!

Traditional conservation touted at Palau ocean conference. **PAGE 3**
37 join ranks of new Americans; 87 so far this year. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Senate passes House bill on retirees' bonuses, with edits

The Senate unanimously passed yesterday House Bill 22-95 in the form of Senate substitute that essentially amends where the money to fund the retiree bonuses would come from.

During the Senate's first special session yesterday, the full body adopted the floor

amendments to H.B. 22-95, as presented by Senate floor leader Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan). These amendments later became Senate Substitute 1, which was unanimously passed by all nine members of the Senate.

The Senate substitute will now make its way back to the House of Representatives for
See SENATE on Page 4

Ukrainian governor: Russian strikes kill at least six in Lviv



KIMBERLY ESMORES

Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) presides over the Senate's special session yesterday in the Senate chamber of the Legislature on Capital Hill.

Sablan moves to recuse self from Torres impeachment proceedings

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan) has asked to be recused from taking part in the upcoming impeachment proceedings against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who is his running mate this November.

According to Sablan, he wrote Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) last March 28 to ask that he

be recused from the impeachment proceedings. He said yesterday, though, that he has yet to receive word on a decision.

"This was a letter dated March 28, to the Senate president [regarding] my recusal from the Senate impeachment process. This was to ask for his consideration on my re-



Sablan

quest that I recuse in partaking in the Senate impeachment vote, which is where members of the Senate votes on each of the articles of impeachment during the session," he said.

Sablan said he is Torres' running mate in the upcoming gubernatorial election, hence his request.

"It's because of the obvious, I am running as the governor's running mate in this upcoming election. I just thought that it would be in the best interest of everyone that I recuse myself from that vote, the general vote for the impeachment process during the session, which is required by our Constitution..." Sablan explained.

However, Sablan said he
See SABLAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AP
A man carries bicycle along a street filled with destroyed Russian military vehicles near Chernihiv, Ukraine, Sunday, April 17, 2022.

By ADAM SCHRECK and
MSTYSLAV CHERNOV
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Multiple explosions apparently caused by missiles struck the western Ukrainian city of Lviv
See UKRAINIAN on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Millions of Americans wait until the last minute to file their taxes and this year is no exception.

Page 11



NATION

Two are dead after the United States was rocked by three mass shootings during Easter weekend.

Page 12



WORLD

Ukrainian fighters inside the shattered city of Mariupol ignore a surrender-or-die ultimatum from Russia.

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ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

**WELCOME BACK!**

Some of the staff of T Galleria by DFS line up inside the luxury mall to welcome guests as they await the opening of the doors last April 8.

LEIGH GASES

**Bump, set, spike! Settle it at the net.**

Beach Volleyball has become a very popular sport at the Pacific Games led by the iconic Vanuatu Women's team who have won every Beach Volleyball title since the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, including on home sand at the last Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu in 2017. On the Men's side, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, and most recently Australia (at the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa) have all claimed gold over the past decade. As a compulsory sport in the main Pacific Games, Beach Volleyball normally attracts entries from around 15 of the 22 member countries.

GAME IS ON! June 17 - 25, 2022

- Participating Countries
16
- Competition Schedule
20 - 24 Jun 2022
- Competition Venue
Crowne Plaza Resort Beach (Saipan)
and Jones Beach (Tinian)
- Number of Athletes
62

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
www.northernmarianaspacificgames2022.com


Man accused of domestic violence gets suspended 6-month sentence

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A man accused of domestic violence and disturbing the peace was sentenced yesterday to six months in prison, all suspended, and was placed on one year of probation.

Joey Daniel T. Maratita, 28, was also ordered to pay a \$300 fine and is ordered to perform 150 hours of community service.

He is also not allowed to have any harassing contact with the victim in the case, Rheena Ronquillo Aquino, and any contact at all with her minor children. The order was signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Maratita was represented in court by Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig. The CNMI was represented by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas.

According to court documents, Maratita "willfully and unreasonably annoy or disturb Rheena Ronquillo Aquino, a household member," on June 1 last year by "grabbing her hair and pushing her onto the bed."

The situation in the household was discovered after their young child wrote about it in her journal and informed her teacher, who then informed the Department of Youth Services.

The child's entry read: "Yesterday on June 1, my

stepdad hit my mom again. I cried for us just to go but we couldn't. I really hope everything gets better. In front of people I can't say anything about what's going on at home." She further stated that she feels bad for her younger siblings because they also witness their parent's domestic violence.

In an interview with the child, she reportedly said that Maratita would also accuse her mom of cheating and that he would get physical with her during their arguments. Maratita would also allegedly call her mom names. He would allegedly slap and punch her mom on the stomach and would call her and her siblings "stupid."

MCS Early Bird deadline on May 2

Mount Carmel School reminds interested families that the deadline for the Early Bird Special is May 2, 2022.

This is an opportunity for parents to avail of major registration and tuition discounts for the upcoming school year. The annual Early Bird registration discount is as follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is \$75 per student (normally \$100). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is \$200 per student (normally \$400).

"The Early Bird Special

was created to help families register their child's seat for the next academic school year and save money. Grade levels tend to fill up quickly and we want to help our community any way we can during this pandemic," said MCS president Frances Taimanao.

Families with two children can avail of a \$600 tuition discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000 tuition discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 tuition dis-

count for the fourth child.

Families who avail of Mount Carmel School's Early Bird Special will also automatically qualify to apply for the school's Academic and Extracurricular Scholarships or financial aid program. Students awarded a scholarship or financial aid will gain \$750 in tuition savings.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. (PR)

Traditional conservation touted at Palau ocean conference



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
At the MOU signing ceremony, Ngardok Nature Reserve, April 12, 2022.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U. S. Department of the Interior’s deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa recently concluded a trip to the Republic of Palau where he participated in the seventh Our Ocean Conference, from April 13 to 14, 2022. Themed “Our Ocean, Our People, Our Prosperity,” the conference featured numerous panels where Nakoa hosted the Marine Protected Areas panel, highlighting the importance of collaborating with traditional and community leaders for the long-term and inter-generational success of natural resource and ocean conservation globally as well as in the Insular Areas.

In Palau, Nakoa joined Paramount High Chief Reklai Bao Ngirmang, Palau Minister of Finance Kaleb Udoi, Melekeok State Gov. Henaro Polloi, and other dignitaries in a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony at the Ngardok Nature Reserve, officially launching a partnership between the National

Park Service and the Palau national government, in partnership with the state government and the people of Melekeok for sustainable visitor use and tourism management of protected areas in Palau.

“Marine and terrestrial protected areas are important management tools to conserve biodiversity, sustain healthy fisheries, safeguard ocean ecosystems, protect natural and cultural heritage, and address the climate crisis. To have longevity and be successful in practice, the support and commitment of the people who themselves hold the cultural and traditional knowledge of a community must be at the forefront,” said Nakoa. “This MOU between the National Park Service and Palau stands as a shining example of inclusive collaboration to promote traditional and modern knowledge sharing in management and planning for the future preservation of Palau’s sustainable practices and to protect its pristine environment.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
On April 12 at the Ngardok Nature Reserves in Melekeok State, Palau Minister Kaleb Udoi signs the MOU for a partnership for sustainable visitor use and tourism planning between the United States National Park Service and the Republic of Palau.

“What an amazing two days this conference has been for the United States and Palau as co-hosts of the 7th Our Ocean Conference in Palau, where so many nations, islands, and communities, have come together to ensure a healthy ocean and to ensure we build a collective resilience against climate change for the future,” said U.S. Ambassador Hennessey-Niland. “The health of our ocean and the resilience of all people who depend upon it is also a critical component of a stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific, and we look forward to continued strengthening of the important relationship we have with Palau towards our shared future.”

“Twenty-five years ago, the people of Melekeok set aside the Ngardok Reserve as a protected area for our community and the prosperity of our people,” said Ngirmang. “It is our aspiration to build upon the strengths of our traditions and culture through this important collaboration with the National Park Service, to ensure the resilience and the strength of our natural resources for our people going into the future.”

“Here in Palau, you can eas-

See **TRADITIONAL** on Page 4

Saipan Tribune

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Saipan Marianas Lions Club sets 4th walkathon

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club will hold its 4th Annual “Diabetes Awareness and Prevention 5K Walkathon Fundraiser” on Sunday, May 1.

Prior to the walk and to en-

ergize participants, a Zumba event led by M2 Fitness will begin at 5:30am at the Carolinian Utt. At 6am, the walk will begin on the Beach Road Pathway in front of the Carolinian Utt, make its way down and turn around at Monika’s Gallery, then back

to the Carolinian Utt.

Walkathon participants will need to register and pay \$15, and will receive a free event T-shirt.

Ladyvir D. Canape, Lions Club District 204 past president, is inviting the public to “support, go out and ex-

ercise by joining the Zumba dance and walk.”

There are five global causes for the Lions Club International and this year, the SMLC fundraiser’s proceeds will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association and the North-

ern Mariana Islands Football Association.

“One way to eradicate diabetes is to be active and supporting the football club helps achieve that goal through sports,” Canape said in an earlier interview.

This walkathon has been held every year since 2018. However, it was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, but resumed again last year.

For registration, email Judy

Mendieta, committee chair for the 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser, at judy_mendieta@yahoo.com or contact her at (670)287-2668.

For questions or inquiries, contact any of the following officers: Canape at (670)989-2545, Lolita Velasco, club president, at (670)989-3660, Martha Badelles, club secretary, at (670)785-0551, or Leticia Canching, club treasurer, at (670)483-2260.

UKRAINIAN

From Page 1

early Monday as the country was bracing for an all-out Russian assault in the east. At least six people were killed in the city, which has been spared much of the worst violence in almost two months of war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed to “fight absolutely to the end” in strategically vital Mariupol, meanwhile, where the ruined southeastern port city’s last known pocket of resistance was holed up in a sprawling steel plant laced with tunnels.

Plumes of thick, black smoke were rising over Lviv after the explosions, which were witnessed by Associated Press staff. Lviv and the rest of western Ukraine have not been immune but have been less affected by the fighting than other parts of the country and have been considered a relative haven.

Lviv’s regional governor, Maksym Kozysky, said six people were killed and another eight, including a child, were wounded by four Russian missile strikes. He said three hit military infrastructure facilities and one struck a tire shop. He said emergency teams were putting out fires caused by the strikes.

Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi put the toll at six dead and 11 wounded, including one child.

Military analysts say Russia is increasing its strikes on weapons factories, railways and other infrastructure targets across Ukraine to wear down

the country’s ability to resist a major ground offensive in the Donbas, Ukraine’s Russian-speaking eastern industrial heartland.

With missiles and rockets battering various parts of the country, Zelenskyy accused Russian soldiers of torture and kidnappings in areas they control.

The fall of Mariupol, which has been reduced to rubble in a seven-week siege, would give Moscow its biggest victory of the war. But a few thousand fighters, by Russia’s estimate, were holding on to the giant, 11-square-kilometer (4-square-mile) Azovstal steel mill.

“We will fight absolutely to the end, to the win, in this war,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal vowed Sunday on ABC’s “This Week.” He said Ukraine is prepared to end the war through diplomacy if possible, “but we do not have intention to surrender.”

Many Mariupol civilians, including children, are also sheltering at the Azovstal plant, Mikhail Vershinin, head of the city’s patrol police, told Mariupol television. He said they are hiding from Russian shelling and from Russian soldiers.

Capturing the city on the Sea of Azov would free Russian troops for a new offensive to take control of the Donbas region in Ukraine’s industrial east. Russia also would fully secure a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014, and it would deprive Ukraine of a major port and prized industrial assets.

Russia is bent on capturing the Donbas, where Moscow-

backed separatists already control some territory, after its attempt to take the capital, Kyiv, failed.

“We are doing everything to ensure the defense” of eastern Ukraine, Zelenskyy said in his nightly address to the nation.

As for besieged Mariupol, there appeared to be little hope of military rescue. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told CBS’ “Face the Nation” on Sunday that the remaining Ukrainian troops and civilians there are basically encircled. He said they “continue their struggle,” but that the city effectively doesn’t exist anymore because of massive destruction.

The relentless bombardment and street fighting in Mariupol have killed at least 21,000 people, by Ukrainian estimates. A maternity hospital was hit by a lethal Russian airstrike in the opening weeks of the war, and about 300 people were reported killed in the bombing of a theater where civilians had taken shelter.

An estimated 100,000 people remained in the city out of a prewar population of 450,000, trapped without food, water, heat or electricity.

Drone footage carried by the Russian news agency RIA-Novosti showed mile after mile of shattered buildings and, on the city’s outskirts, the steel complex, from which rose towering plumes of smoke.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar described Mariupol as a “shield defending Ukraine.”

Russian forces, meanwhile,

carried out aerial attacks near Kyiv and elsewhere in an apparent effort to weaken Ukraine’s military capacity ahead of the anticipated assault on the Donbas.

After the humiliating sinking of the flagship of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet last week in what the Ukrainians boasted was a missile attack, the Kremlin had vowed to step up strikes on the capital.

Russia said Sunday that it had attacked an ammunition plant near Kyiv overnight with precision-guided missiles, the third such strike in as many days. Explosions were also reported in Kramatorsk, the eastern city where rockets earlier this month killed at least 57 people at a train station crowded with civilians trying to evacuate ahead of the Russian offensive.

At least five people were killed by Russian shelling in Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, on Sunday, regional officials said. The barrage slammed into apartment buildings. The streets were littered with broken glass and other debris.

Kharkiv Mayor Igor Terkhov, in an impassioned address marking Orthodox Palm Sunday, lashed out at Russian forces for not letting up the bombing campaign on such a sacred day.

Zelenskyy called the bombing in Kharkiv “nothing but deliberate terror.”

Zelenskyy also appealed for a stronger response to what he said was the brutality of Russian troops in parts of southern Ukraine.

days to complete. However, now that it has been done, he hopes it’s something the House and the Senate can agree on.

“What we did was we had Dave Demapan work with the secretary of Finance to look at the budget and identify where we can find funds for the retirees’ bonus. It was then that the secretary of Finance did find some lapsed funding under personnel. It was a very tedious process for Dave and the secretary of Finance team to really go in and look at the schedule on the budget and see where those lapsed fundings were. But they did find enough to cover the \$2.6 million for the retirees’ bonus,” he said.

Guam PTAC sets free webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month.

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ April 21 – Service Contract Act – The Service Contract Act requires contractors and subcontractors perform-

ing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ April 28 – GovGuam Procurement – The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on our website: <https://www.guamptac.com/> (PR)

SABLAN

From Page 1

will still be present to hear the testimonies and the evidence presented, but he will not take part in the voting process.

“I will be here. It’s incumbent upon me, as a senator and as an elected official, to be here and listen, just to be informed and aware of all the deliberations and all the testimonies that will take place. So I will be here listening in on those deliberations and testimonies,” he said.

Sablan noted that impeachment proceedings are expected to begin sometime this week or early next week, so he expects to receive word from

the Senate president on his request before then.

“We have several days. We have the hearing tomorrow on the motion to dismiss. Then I do know that the actual session, the required session to vote on the impeachment will be in the next couple of days, if not this week, then next week. That is all up to the Senate president right now,” Sablan said.

The Senate is set to hear Torres’ motion to dismiss the article of impeachment against him today at 10am on Capitol Hill.

Seating is limited and strict guidelines will be imposed to ensure the safety of those in attendance and to uphold the

TRADITIONAL

From Page 3

ily see the interdependence between the ocean, our land, and our people. The theme Our People, Our Ocean, and Our Prosperity is a theme that we take to heart as a proud co-host with the United States of the 7th Our Ocean Conference here in Palau,” said Udui. “We have been especially pleased to sign a partnership agreement with the National Park Service for tourism and sustainable visitor use planning and are encouraged that the financing mechanisms we have established can serve as a model for future collaboration.”

Culturally and traditionally significant to the people of Melekeok, the Ngardok Nature Reserve is home to the largest freshwater body in Mi-

cronesia and numerous native plant and animal species. The NNR is part of the Smithsonian Institution’s Forest Global Early Observatory Network and is recognized as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. The traditional leaders and the community of Melekeok aspire for the NNR to serve as a model for excellence in research and preservation for other terrestrial and marine sites within Palau’s protected areas network and for the region.

For more information about the Signing Ceremony for the MOU on Protected Area Planning, Training, and Technical Collaboration held at the Ngardok Nature Reserve visit NPS news releases on nps.gov.

For more on the Our Ocean Conference, visit their website at: <https://ourocean2022.pw/>. (PR)

SENATE

From Page 1

adoption before it is given to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his final signature.

Sablan hopes the House will agree with the Senate substitute so that CNMI retirees can finally get their bonuses, which Torres had promised them before December last year.

“I’m hoping that when the House receives the Senate substitute, we can once and for all agree and get the retirees their well-deserved bonuses so that we can move on with a lot of the other legislative businesses that we have,” he said.

According to Sablan, the most important amendment

made was the re-appropriation of funding from general fund personnel lapses instead of reprogramming funds from select government units: the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Finance, and the Office of the Governor.

“The Legislature finds that re-appropriating identified general fund personnel lapses is the more responsible approach to funding the retirees bonus, instead of arbitrarily selecting business units within Public Law 22-95, without considering the adverse consequences to the departments affected by such arbitrary re-appropriation,” Sablan said.

Other amendments include the distribution of the retirement bonuses, and who holds

the expenditure authority.

“The retirees’ bonuses shall be distributed equally to all Settlement Class members and CNMI fund members receiving an annuity,” Sablan said.

“For programs and activities not specifically mentioned, the expenditure authority shall be the secretary of Finance,” he added.

In an interview with Sablan following the session, he said the amendments made was a collaborative effort among his office, Finance Secretary David Atalig, and Senate finance specialist Dave Demapan.

He explained that the process of identifying an alternate source of funding was a tedious one and took several

37 join ranks of new Americans; 87 so far this year

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona swore in 37 new U.S. citizens yesterday during a two-part naturalization ceremony that added a total of 87 to the ranks of new Americans only four months into the year.

The 37 new citizens took their oaths at the U.S. District Court for the NMI in separate naturalization ceremonies at 10am and 1:30pm. Majority of the new citizens are from the Philippines. One is from South Korea, one is from French Polynesia, one is from Palau, and, for the first time since Manglona's almost 10-year tenure, one is from American Samoa.

Fritz Jacob Passi, who was with the first batch of new Americans who were sworn in yesterday, first came to Saipan from American Samoa back in 1990 and has lived here since then. Passi says he is "proud to be a U.S. citizen. Now I can really support my wife and finally get married."

Additionally, each one of the two batches had a 70-year-old, making them the eldest of the batches to be sworn in.

The first batch of new citizens were Ricardo Jimenez Amog, Noime Pangelinan Babauta, Beverly Casaclan Balakrishnan, Gayline Patricia Blau, Ma. Sarah Constantino Javier, Jamerto Adona Casama, Virgilio Salum Cucal, Zenaida Mongado Cuervo, Marivic Ballesteros Fernandez, Windy Ann Ventura Fernandez, Alberto Olea Lucido, Maria Concepcion Capangpangan Mettao, Renyaldo Gonza Moreno, Edgardo Trajano Oliva, Fritz



The first batch consisting of 18 newly-minted U.S. citizens have their picture taken with Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, front left, and Patricia Phelan, immigration services officer, front right.



The second batch of 19 newly-sworn in U.S. citizens pose with Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, front left, and Patricia Phelan, immigration services officer, front, second from right.

Jacob Passi, Josefino Zamoranos Tadifa Jr, Rafaela Baruela Tadia, and Adelaida Espiritu Toribio.

Cuerdo said she's happy that she can finally stay for a longer period of time in the U.S. mainland and be with her children, who are there. She also says she's excited to "be able to vote" and "participate in any other services that

are needed."

The second batch of new citizens are Ann Janine Romero Agulto, Marilyn Cubillan Aquino, Santiago Tulio Concepcion, Evelyn Baldoza Cuadro, Pacifico Ramilo Dimapilis, Elenita Cabatian Ebrado, Leo Atienza Espinosa, Susana Quiming Espinosa, Arnel

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rizalito P. Tabago
Petitioner
:-vs:-
Michelle Madriaga
Respondent

FCD-DI
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 21-0378

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to delivery or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501607 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2022.

/s/

CLERK OF THIS COURT

'ANG HULING YUGTO' BBM-Sara Grand Caravan, variety show this Sunday

A BBM-Sara UniTeam Grand Caravan will again be held this Sunday, April 24, starting at 3pm. Organized by the Volunteers for BBM-Sara, Saipan-CNMI Chapter, the motorcade will take off from the Garapan Fishing Base (across Kristo Rai Church), then head south via Beach Road, then proceed west to As Lito Road, before heading back to the Garapan Fishing Base via Middle Road. Along with at least 500 decorated vehicles expected to participate, the motorcade will also feature various floats, several mobile sound vehicles, and the Easy Riders group and possibly two other big motorcycle groups.

A variety show will be held on the southside of the Garapan Fishing Base right after the Grand Caravan. It will

showcase musical extravaganza and dance entertainments to be performed by Filipino artists in the CNMI. The Groove Theory Band will be providing live musical performance during the event.

VBBMS will put up several food tents around the area for all its volunteer-members and participants. The VBBMS is appealing to all participants and guest to strictly observe traffic, health, and sanitary protocols during the event.

The VBBMS would like to thank the CNMI Department of Public Safety, the Parks and Recreation Division, other individuals and groups, VBBMS' committee heads, and its volunteer members for their assistance in putting up this important event. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION TO BID CUC-IFB-22-025

SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-025, Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 2:00 PM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 28, 2022.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on April 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

A hundred years of courage, strength, and resiliency

By MAI CHONG MENDIOLA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A hundred years ago, Aiko Mihara, my grandmother (“Obaachan”) from my mother’s side, was born. I remember visiting her in Japan when I was a toddler. It was a moment I cherished since I did not know when I would get to see her again. She is a woman who has shown me more love than I ever needed. Today, I write to share her 100 years of life on earth. I am sure she would be very happy to fill-up this page with her beautiful life stories, but for now, in humble respect for my grandmother, I will keep it brief.

“Obaachan” was born on April 20, 1922, in Davao, Philippines, to Shigeki and Yuki Hasegawa. Her parents owned a farm business in the Philippines. At age 7, my grandma said she had to move to Japan to attend 1st grade; she stayed with her uncle in Japan. Meanwhile, her parents and siblings stayed behind in the Philippines because of the farming business. Eventually she was reunited with her family when her parents and siblings returned to Japan when World War II began. She grew up in Nagano ken (prefectures), Ueda shi-Central Honshu, Japan. She was married to Motohiko Mihara and had a daughter, Mikie Mihara. Unfortunately, due to underlying health conditions, my grandfather Motohiko passed away when my mother was around 7 or 8 years old. As a single parent, she raised my mother and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

My grandmother, seated second from right, attended her niece’s wedding back in 2013 in Japan. This was the last time she got together with her siblings.

worked odd jobs here and there just to make ends meet. Her longest employment was when she worked as a pharmacy technician for about 22 years. Because medications back in the day were in powder form and due to the lack of ventilation and proper protection equipment, she lost her sense of smell in her mid 40’s.

Around 1990, “Obaachan” decided to move to Saipan to be with her only daughter and spend the rest of

her life with us, her family. She was of great help to my parents, as my parents were both working fulltime. With Obaachan’s arrival, she became the center of our lives and we learned a lot from her; she taught us how to care for ourselves, how

to cook, how to do daily cleaning chores, and so on. Through her, she taught us courage, strength, and resiliency. Now, at a 100, we are forever grateful that she is still alive today and still

smiling and forever holding her fortitude.

Obaachan is the eldest of seven siblings: two sisters (Auntie Shizuko, and Auntie Sachiko – deceased), and five brothers (Uncle Hiroshi – deceased during World War II, Uncle Izumi, Uncle Tadashi, Uncle Yooichi – deceased, and Uncle Sekio – deceased). A sister and two brothers are still alive today.

Otanjoubi omedetou, Obaachan! We all love you! God bless and thank you, Lord, for your grace and blessing.

The author is Aiko Mihara’s eldest granddaughter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This file photo from December 2021 shows a complete family picture (Standing from left, Kevin Chong (great grandson), Peter Mendiola (spouse of Mai M.), Yosuke (great grandson), “Obaachan” (seated), Kaito (great grandson), Ai Chong (granddaughter), Jun Chong (grandson). Bottom row, from left, Isabela DLG, Mikie Chong (daughter), Mai Chong Mendiola (grand-daughter), Vicente Tenorio Chong (son-in-law), Jacob Taisacan (fiancé of Ai C.).

Dementia support group to feature speech-language pathologist, virtual museum tour

Certified speech-language pathologist Sibyl Crisostomo from Guam Regional Medical City will be offering a free virtual presentation at 6pm this Wednesday on swallowing and dysphagia in persons with dementia. Her presentation is part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam School of Health.



Crisostomo

of the island. The Guam Museum virtual tour series is conducted by Guam Museum Curator Michael Lujan Bevacqua, who holds a doctorate in ethnic studies and specializes in CHamoru history, language, and culture.

Swallowing and Dysphagia in Persons with Dementia

■ 6pm – 8pm, Wednesday, April 20
■ Register at <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>.

Guam Museum Virtual Tour: “I Finaloffan Yan I Ma’mal’la” (Our Past and Our Future)

■ 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, April 27 (Register at <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>.)
■ 10am–noon, Saturday, April 30 (Register at <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>.)

Ongoing support groups The GWEP dementia support group sessions are held remotely on Zoom every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning, yearround. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or gwept.gss@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@tele-guam.net. (PR)

CUC ADVISORIES

Emergency water service interruption in Kagman 2

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption for customers on the corner of Bilembines Street and Ates Drive to the corner of Sereguidilles Place and Ates Drive in Kagman II on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 8:30am to 3pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair a possible 2-inch main service lateral in the Kagman II area. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite. CUC appreciates the public’s cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide

reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>. (PR)

Emergency water service interruption in Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption for customers in the entire Kagman area on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC water personnel to repair a leak on the 50k steel bolted tank and main service lateral leak. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men

and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite. CUC appreciates the public’s cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>. (PR)

Emergency water service interruption in San Antonio

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption for customers in Afetnas Road in San Antonio (from Afetnas Super Market to

Chaim Monsignor Martinez on Afetnas Road in San Antonio) on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

The emergency water interruption is to allow CUC operations personnel to repair a main service lateral leak on Afetnas Road. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite. CUC appreciates the public’s cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Good Friday

PHOTOS By LEIGH GASES

Hundreds of the Catholic faithful make the annual pilgrimage to the peak of Mount Tapochao this year as part of the Good Friday tradition, in remembrance of Jesus Christ’s journey before his crucifixion.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Senate decorum falls by the wayside to set the record straight on Josh Hawley

An extraordinary thing happened last week on the floor of the U.S. Senate. A Democratic senator from Hawaii, about as far as you can get from Missouri, dispensed with decorum and launched into a withering attack on Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. Floor speeches typically are reserved for the debate of issues and bills but rarely devolve into direct personal attacks. Hawley's divisive antics over the past year, however, apparently have pushed Hawaii Sen. Brian Schatz too far.

Schatz's April 7 outburst did nothing to bridge the nation's deepening political divide, but it served as an overdue response to Hawley's double-sided morality standards and unbridled hypocrisy. Hawley, a freshman senator who not long ago questioned any Biden administration involvement when Russia prepared to invade Ukraine, now is ranting daily with complaints about the lack of Biden administration involvement in Ukraine.

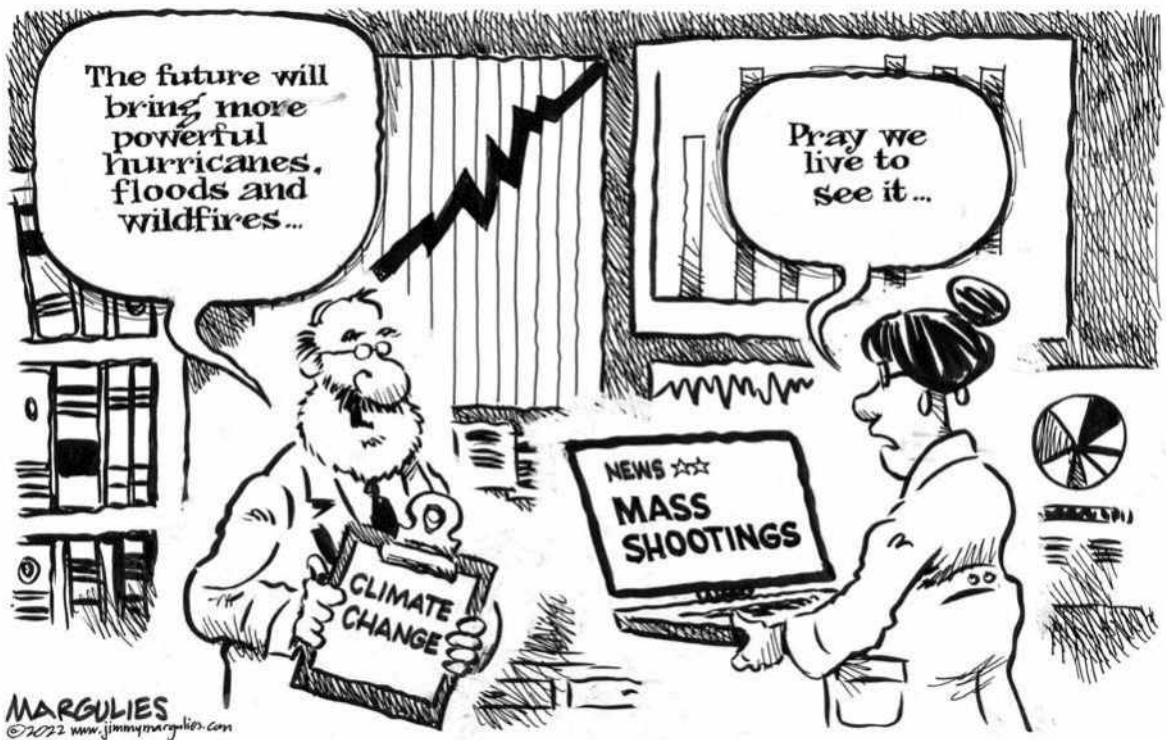
Hawley also is single-handedly delaying confirmation of Celeste Wallender, the National Security Council's former Russia director, who is President Joe Biden's nominee for assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. It's because Wallender's service is so badly needed at the Pentagon that Schatz felt compelled to speak out.

Hawley "is damaging the Department of Defense. We have senior DoD leaders, we have the Armed Services Committee coming to us and saying: 'I don't know what to tell him, I don't know how to satisfy him, but he is blocking the staffing of the senior leadership at the Department of Defense,'" Schatz stated.

"And this comes from a guy who raised his fist in solidarity with the insurrectionists. And this comes from a guy who, before the Russian invasion, suggested that maybe it would be wise for (Ukrainian President Volodymyr) Zelenskyy to make a few concessions about Ukraine and their willingness to join NATO. This comes from a guy who just about a month ago voted against Ukraine aid. ... Now he has the gall to say it's going too slow."

Hawaiians probably are new to the Hawley game. Missourians, of course, have long been schooled in Hawley's chameleonic ways. Hawley responded that the administration is trying to "hide their failure in Ukraine," which is interesting, considering that Hawley previously thought U.S. attention on Ukraine was misplaced—and considering that the U.S.-led rush of armaments to Ukraine

See SENATE on Next Page



On Jan. 6 sentences, definition of justice depends on one's point of view

Sentences are a Rorschach test for how people define justice.

Take Emily Hernandez.

The Sullivan woman was just 21 when she stormed the U.S. Capitol along with her uncle, William "Bill" Merry, and his friend, Paul Scott Westover, during the Jan. 6 insurrection. Hernandez famously held up a piece of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's broken name plate on the damning day in American history.

On Monday, a federal judge sentenced Hernandez to 30 days in jail for the misdemeanor of entering and remaining in a restricted public building. Merry and Westover each received 45-day sentences for similar misdemeanors.

Are those sentences fair?

That depends on through which lens you view justice. I once wrote about a woman named Brooke Bergen, for instance, who lived in Salem, Missouri, not all that far from where Hernandez lives, and she served a year in the county jail for stealing an \$8 tube of mascara. Then she got out of jail and was threatened with even more time if she didn't pay a \$15,000 bill for her jail time.

That didn't seem very just. There are those who will believe Hernandez and many of the other insurrectionists have been treated with kid gloves. Count among them the family of Victoria Wilson, the 32-year-old mother of two who was killed in a highway crash for which Hernandez is charged with driving the wrong way on Interstate 44. In that case, Hernandez has been charged with two felony counts of driving while intoxicated. She'll likely face much more than a 30-day sentence if found guilty.

After the deadly crash, Wilson's mother, Tonie Donaldson, was unhappy that Hernandez was not already in jail for her alleged role in the insurrection. Hernandez was originally charged by federal prosecutors with five different misdemeanors.

"Why is she still out?" Donaldson asked after her daughter was killed. "With what she did to the government, why is she still walking the street?"

A reader of mine asked a similar question in an email just a week ago. He wondered why Hernandez wasn't jailed immediately after the alleged DWI, as he had been decades ago for a similar offense but where nobody died.

It's a common question that misunderstands the purpose of bail, which, when applied properly, is not intended to punish people pretrial but simply ensure that they show up to their next court date or, in some circumstances, keep the community safe from potentially violent criminals. I generally find myself on the opposite side of the question, asking why certain people are locked up before they've been convicted. My reader—34 years sober now, he tells me—shouldn't have been locked up either,

By **TONY MESSENGER**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch



all those years ago.

In a touch of irony, perhaps, that's been the sentiment expressed by folks on the right side of the political spectrum who post-insurrection found some of their loved ones or friends or allies, like the so-called QAnon Shaman for instance, held in jail before their trials or guilty pleas in some of the more violent cases from the Jan. 6 attack on the nation.

Welcome to the cause of criminal justice reform.

Therein lies the key to the Rorschach test. It's human nature to sympathize with those with whom we share a common bond. It's fair to say those who believe that former President Donald Trump and his followers were right to stage a coup against the nation likely believe Hernandez should spend no time in jail or prison. The rest of us are wondering when Trump and the other elected officials who enabled the insurrection will pay a price.

The ink blot shows what we want to see. That's likely the case in another high-profile case heard in court this week: In a settlement with Alan Pratzel, the state's chief disciplinary counsel, St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly M. Gardner agreed that she had violated legal ethics rules in her prosecution of former Gov. Eric Greitens. After being originally charged by Pratzel with multiple ethics violations that could have led her to be disbarred, Gardner will likely receive the legal equivalent of a slap on the wrist.

If the Missouri Supreme Court agrees with the reprimand against Gardner, a Democrat, it will be the same level of punishment issued a few years ago to Platte County Prosecutor Eric Zahnd, a Republican who is the former chairman of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. Despite a primary challenge, Zahnd won his next election.

Those whose minds were made up about Gardner long ago will lament that the reprimand wasn't more severe. Gardner's attorney, Mike Downey, called the resolution—pending further court action—"serious" but "fair."

"A good settlement to a case leaves no one happy but everyone recognizing they benefited from it," he told reporters.

Justice, it seems, is in the eye of the beholder.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ukraine war is depleting America's arsenal of democracy

America is following an “arsenal of democracy” strategy in Ukraine: It has avoided direct intervention against the Russian invaders, while working with allies and partners to provide the Kyiv government with money and guns.

That strategy, reminiscent of U.S. support for Britain in 1940-41, has worked wonders. Yet as the war reaches a critical stage, with the Russians preparing to consolidate their grip on eastern Ukraine, the arsenal of democracy is being depleted.

That could cause a fatal shortfall for Ukrainian forces in this conflict, and it is revealing American weaknesses that could be laid bare in the next great-power fight.

Of all the support the U.S. and its friends have provided Ukraine, arms have mattered the most. Deliveries of drones, antitank and anti-aircraft weapons, ammunition and other capabilities have helped Ukraine wreak havoc on Russian forces even as Moscow has pummeled the country's industrial base.

General Mark Milley, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that the West has delivered 60,000 antitank weapons and 25,000 anti-aircraft weapons to Kyiv. The Pentagon is now laying plans to rush additional artillery, coastal defense drones and other materiel to Ukraine. The White House on Wednesday announced a new \$800 million package including helicopters and armored personnel carriers.

But President Joe Biden never planned for a war like this. The assumption was that Russia would quickly conquer much of the country, so the U.S. would be supporting a simmering, low-intensity Ukrainian insurgency. Instead, Ukraine's successful resistance has led to an ongoing, high-intensity conventional fight, with prodigious consumption of munitions and intense attrition of key military assets.

Pentagon officials say that Kyiv is blowing through a week's worth of deliveries of antitank munitions every day. It is also running short of usable aircraft as Russian airstrikes and combat losses take their toll. Ammunition has become scarce in Mariupol and other areas.

This is presenting Western countries with a stark choice be-

tween pouring more supplies into Ukraine or husbanding finite capabilities they may need for their own defense.

Germany has declined to transfer tanks to Ukraine on grounds that it simply cannot spare them. Canada quickly ran short on rocket launchers and other equipment that the Ukrainians desperately need. The U.S. has provided one-third of its overall stockpile of Javelin anti-tank missiles. It cannot easily deliver more without leaving its own armories badly depleted—and it may take months or years to significantly ramp up production.

Before the U.S. entered World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt and his military advisers engaged in intense debates about whether the U.S. should rush weapons to a beleaguered Britain or hang onto them in case America had to defend itself. Biden's arsenal-of-democracy strategy is reaching a similar inflection point in Ukraine.

Kyiv will require far more Western support to beat back Russian forces gathering in the east, where relatively open terrain is less favorable to the defense. It will also need more sophisticated weapons, such as tanks and aircraft, to deny Russia a decisive advantage—and perhaps take the offensive if Moscow's eastern offensive falters. Stout Ukrainian resistance has given Kyiv a reasonable chance of winning this war, but the cost of any victory, in equipment no less than lives, will be astounding.

For the same reason, the war in Ukraine is a sobering preview of the problems the U.S. itself would face in a conflict against Russia or China. If forced to go to war in Eastern Europe or the Western Pacific, Washington would spend down its stockpiles of missiles, precision-guided munitions and other critical capabilities in days or weeks. It would probably suffer severe losses of tanks, planes, ships and other assets that are sophisticated, costly and hard to replace.

During World War I, the offensives of 1914 led to “shell famine” as the European combatants exhausted their arsenals. Get ready for “missile famine” if there is a great-power war.

In the world wars of the last century, America's unmatched manufacturing base ultimately powered it to victory. But today, replenishing the free world's arsenal might not be so easy.

By **HAL BRANDS**

Bloomberg Opinion



Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, the Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Most recently, he is the author of The Twilight Struggle: What the Cold War Teaches Us About Great-Power Rivalry Today.

American economic leadership is no longer based primarily on manufacturing. Shortages of machine tools, skilled labor and spare production capacity could slow a wartime rearmament effort. The U.S. can't quickly scale up production of Stinger missiles for Ukraine, for example, because the workforce needed to do so no longer exists.

American stockpiles of key weapons are smaller than one might imagine, partly because of production constraints and partly because most of the Pentagon's roughly \$750 billion budget goes to manpower, health care and things other than bullets and bombs. Don't bet against the world's leading economy—and all of its democratic allies—in a long war. But don't think that America would effortlessly produce what it needs to win.

The problem isn't insoluble. Greater investments in the defense industrial base and more aggressive purchasing and stockpiling of key munitions can help. The creation of a reserve industrial corps (civilians who have basic peacetime training so they can contribute to wartime production) is worth exploring. Key allies, such as Japan, may be able to help the U.S. surge production in shipbuilding and other areas.

Small wars typically preview what is to come in bigger wars. The Ukraine conflict is showing what it will take to keep the arsenal of democracy equal to the task.

Elon Musk is not what Twitter needs right now

Elon Musk wants to buy Twitter Inc. for \$43 billion—but he has only about \$3 billion in cash on hand. Most of the fortune of the world's richest man, which adds up to some \$259 billion, is tied up in Tesla Inc. and other nifty things.

So if he's serious about a takeover—and there is ample reason for skepticism—he'll have to sell a chunk of his Tesla shares or get a consortium of big buckaroos with social media interests to chip in. Maybe he can enlist the help of Peter Thiel, Marc Andreessen and Donald Trump's political action committee.

Musk's Twitter takeover offer is of a piece with his other recent attention-grabbing antics surrounding the social media company: lots of noise but no real substance. He unveiled a big stake in Twitter last week under the guise of being a passive investor. Then he got very active and snagged a board seat. Then he got very, I don't know, distracted, and stepped away. Now he says he wants the whole megillah.

This is the guy who invited a knife thrower to one of this birthday parties and then stuck a balloon between his legs and dared his guest to pop it. (“I thought, he would maybe hit one gonad but

not both,” Musk later recalled.) Now Musk is the knife thrower, Twitter is the balloon, and Musk maintains his nonchalant attitude about the risk of disabling injuries.

As a thought experiment, however, take Musk at his word: He really wants to buy Twitter and take what he's called the “de facto public town square” into his own two hands.

There are upsides and downsides to Musk's greater involvement in Twitter. The ups largely revolve around the technological and platform enhancements he might push through, as well as the undeniable entrepreneurial mojo he'd bring. The downs reside in his track record as a self-proclaimed “free-speech absolutist” who hasn't always acted as a free speech advocate—and has been an avid disseminator of know-nothingism. In early March 2020, for example, he let it be known that the “coronavirus pandemic is dumb.” He also noted that the coronavirus was just a “form of the common cold” and advocated hydroxychloroquine as an effective treatment. There's much more in that vein.

So maybe the issue is not that Musk lacks the cash to buy Twitter. It's that he lacks the temperament to run it.

Effective and responsible media owners give their contributors the resources they need to communicate and share information easily, and have the self-confidence to tolerate various perspectives (especially those contrary to their own).

Does Musk check those boxes? Not all of them. And there's another essential task for owners of media companies, one that Musk has thus far not shown any interest in: vetting the quality and veracity of the information they publish.

Yes, I know I am being old school here, and that social media sites are not newspapers, but the reason for this requirement transcends debates about print vs. digital or old vs. new: Lies, misinformation, disinformation and propaganda are virulent and wildly destructive. That stuff has to be monitored, because it can lead those who absorb it to make bad decisions.

Constructive responses to the existential crises of our time—climate change, a global pandemic, the rise of authoritarianism, political polarization, racism—have been blunted because social

By **TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN**

Bloomberg News



Timothy L. O'Brien is a senior columnist for Bloomberg Opinion.

media platforms value “openness” more than facts.

The promise of social media was that it was supposed to give voice to those who hadn't traditionally been heard. Gatekeepers would be disintermediated, to use the preferred jargon. Everyone would be their own publisher, and unfiltered views would have global reach. The reality of social media isn't so rosy. Platforms such as Facebook are awash in poisonous dreck that divides individuals and communities and gives flight to a deeper dumbness.

The trick is how to preserve social media's accessibility and grass-roots power while also recognizing that it needs oversight and monitoring. That will be hard, but social media companies have the money and talent. Besides, newspapers—yes, stodgy, old-fashioned newspapers—engineered their operations to strike that balance. They didn't always do it effectively, but at least they tried. Social media companies have been late to this game, both for commercial reasons (monitoring costs money) and political ones (monitoring goes against Silicon Valley's libertarian ethos).

Now comes Musk, one of Silicon Valley's giants, ready to scoop up an influential social media platform. If anything, Twitter's moderation has been too permissive, but Musk claims the opposite, and says the company has somehow inhibited his free speech.

No one should buy that line—and Musk shouldn't buy Twitter. His goal is not free expression, but control. And if he gets it, Twitter's information problem will only grow worse.

SENATE

From Page 8

has helped force Russia into a humiliating retreat.






When then-President Donald Trump tried in 2019 to extort President Zelenskyy, demanding political dirt against Biden in exchange for military aid, Hawley voted against Trump's well-deserved impeachment.

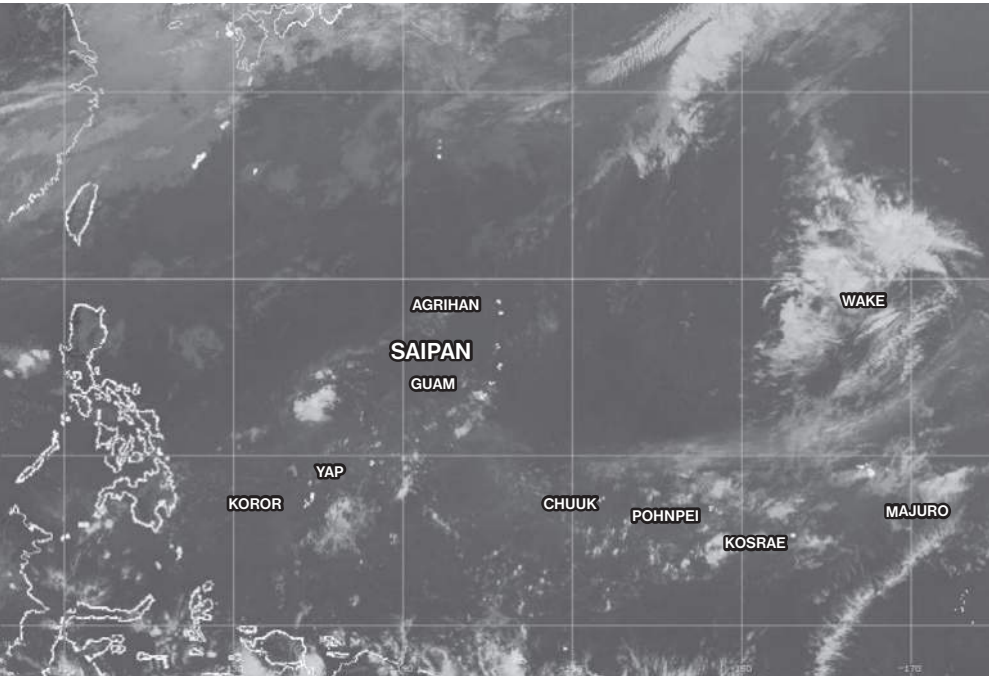
“Spare me the new solidarity with the Ukrainians and the free world, because this man's record is exactly the opposite,” Schatz said of Hawley.

If the Senate's much-vaunted decorum has to fall by the way-side, we can think of no better cause than doing it in the name of correcting the record on Josh Hawley.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly sunny, East wind 9 to 14 mph.		Mostly sunny, East wind 10 to 14 mph.		Mostly sunny, ith Isolated showers.		Partly sunny, with Isolated showers after noon.		Partly sunny, with Isolated showers.	
87°	76°	88°	76°	88°	77°	88°	76°	88°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:40 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. Satellite imagery showed scattered showers and east trade-winds over the Marianas. Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F	
Palau	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:00 AM	18:32 PM
Wednesday	06:00 AM	18:32 PM
Thursday	05:59 AM	18:32 PM
Friday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM
Saturday	05:58 AM	18:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	07:45 PM	21:06 PM
Wednesday	-	08:38 PM	22:11 PM
Thursday	-	09:37 PM	23:16 PM
Friday	-	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	00:18	11:44 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	20 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	25 / 8 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	25 / 19 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 22 °F	
London	PM Showers	18 / 7 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	25 / 12 °F	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	34 / 26 °F	
Melbourne	Rain	18 / 10 °F	
Miami	Mostly Sunny/Wind	27 / 22 °F	
New York	Partly Cloudy	12 / 6 °F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	23 / 11 °F	
Paris	Cloudy	18 / 8 °F	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F	
Rome	Sunny	19 / 9 °F	
Salem	Sunny	20 / 6 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	18 / 11 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	22 / 5 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	13 / 4 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
03:21 AM	Low Tide	0.98	
08:35 AM	High Tide	1.99	
3:42 PM	Low Tide	-0.24	
10:32 PM	High Tide	1.99	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
				UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily				
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily				
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily				
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily				

TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily				
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily				
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily				
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily				
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily				
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily				
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily				
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily				
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

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Business

Tax Day laggards: Consider filing for extension if in a rush

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of Americans wait until the last minute to file their taxes and this year is no exception.

Monday is Tax Day—the federal deadline for individual tax filing and payments—and the IRS will receive tens of millions of last-minute filings electronically and through paper forms.

As of April 8, the IRS had received more than 103 million returns for this tax season, and it had issued more than 63 million refunds worth more than \$204 billion.

For comparison, last year more than 169 million people completed an income tax return by the end of the year. That probably leaves nearly 40 percent of this year's taxpayers still unaccounted for, with many scrambling to submit their documents by Monday.

Nina Tross at the National Society of Tax Professionals says if people haven't filed their taxes by now, "they're better off filing an extension."

But, she added, "People



A W-4 form on Feb. 5, 2020, in New York. Monday is Tax Day, the federal deadline for individual tax filing and payments.

don't realize that filing an extension has zero effect" as long as they have paid their income taxes by Tax Day.

"An extension is merely filing a return at a later date," Tross said. "If you rush

through a return to get it out the door, and you have to amend it later, you're more likely to get a double look from the IRS."

"You're much better off extending than amending,"

she said.

The IRS this year is facing its biggest backlog in history. At the end of the 2021 filing season, the agency had 35.3 million returns waiting for processing. One reason is

that every paper document that goes into the IRS is processed by a human, according to the IRS.

And some forms are reviewed by IRS employees and treated as if submitted on paper even if they are e-filed.

This year will be one of the most challenging for the agency, with its record low staffing numbers. The IRS workforce is the same size it was in 1970, though the U.S. population has grown exponentially and tax laws have become increasingly complicated.

The agency announced plans in March to hire at least 10,000 more workers.

Lisa Greene-Lewis, a CPA and spokesperson at TurboTax, said that if people still intend to file a return by Tax Day, "I would gather all your documents in one place so you don't leave anything out, like W2s and 1099s."

Important papers such as the "Letter 6419" that outlines the Child Tax Credit payments a taxpayer should have received this year and

the "Letter 6475" for stimulus payments should also be on hand.

Greene-Lewis, who has been doing taxes for over 20 years, said "you want to report the correct amount you received so you don't have to have to make adjustments to your refund."

The IRS has put out some information and helpful links for last-minute filers—stressing that "taxpayers should be careful to file a complete and accurate tax return. If a return includes errors or is incomplete, it may require further review."

Keith Kahn with the Delaware Society of CPAs said he encourages everyone to file an electronic return.

When asked whether CPAs will accept clients on Tax Day, Kahn said it's common for people to be turned away. But for those who can get an appointment, "make sure you have everything you could possibly provide to your CPA—there's not a lot of time to hammer out strategy or to ask questions."

China's economy grows 4.8% in January-March

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth edged up to a still-weak 4.8% over a year earlier in the first three months of 2022 as industrial cities shut down to fight coronavirus outbreaks, threatening to disrupt global trade and manufacturing.

Growth in the world's second-largest economy crept up from the previous quarter's 4% following a slump triggered by tighter controls on use of debt by China's vast real estate industry, government data showed Monday. Compared with the previous quarter, as other major economies are measured, growth slowed to 1.3% from 1.4%.

"More pain will come" in the current quarter, Iris Pang of ING said in a report. "Further impacts from lockdowns are imminent."

The slowdown hurts China's trading partners by depressing demand for oil, steel, consumer goods, food and other imports. Oil prices, which spiked after Russia's attack on Ukraine, have fallen back somewhat on expectations Chinese consumption will weaken.

The flow of industrial goods has been disrupted by the suspension of access to Shanghai, a business center with 25 million people, and other industrial cities. Global automakers and other manufacturers have reduced or stopped production.

The disruption "will weigh

on activity in April and into May, if not longer," Tommy Wu of Oxford Economics said in a report. That is "likely to have a significant impact on global supply chains."

First quarter economic growth was below the ruling Communist Party's annual target of 5.5%. Forecasters have said that will be hard to meet without large government stimulus spending.

Retail spending, factory output and investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets rose.

"The national economic recovery was sustained and the operation of the economy was generally stable," said a government statement.

China's latest infection numbers are relatively low, but Beijing is responding to its biggest outbreak since the 2020 start of the pandemic with a "zero-COVID" policy that aims to isolate every person who tests positive.

The ruling party already was promising tax refunds and other aid to businesses to pull the economy out of a slide that began in mid-2021. Last week, Premier Li Keqiang, the No. 2 leader, called for quicker action to get help to struggling entrepreneurs.

Forecasters say Beijing is moving cautiously and using targeted stimulus measures instead of across-the-board spending. Chinese leaders worry that might push up po-

litically sensitive housing costs or corporate debt they worry is dangerously high.

Retail sales rose by a modest 3.3% over a year earlier in the first quarter after demand was dampened by a government appeal to the public to avoid traveling and large gatherings during February's Lunar New Year holiday, normally a period of big spending on gift-giving, banquets and tourism.

Factory output rose 6.5% and investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets increased 9.3%, possibly reflecting official orders to banks to lend more readily.

Last week, regulators injected an extra 500 billion yuan (\$80 billion) into the pool of money for lending by reducing the amount of deposits commercial banks are required to hold in reserve.

The agency that runs the Shanghai port says operations are normal. But companies say the volume of cargo it handles has fallen.

Other cities affected by suspensions of access include Tianjin, a port and petrochemical center east of Beijing; Shenzhen, a finance and tech center near Hong Kong, and the manufacturing centers of Changchun and Jilin in the northeast. Smaller cities also have suspended access, closed businesses, ordered residents to stay at home or imposed other controls.

US intelligence satellite launched from California



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying National Reconnaissance Office mission (NROL-85) launches from Space Launch Complex-4 East at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif., on Sunday morning, April 17, 2022.

VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—A classified satellite for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office was launched into space from California on Sunday.

The NROL-85 satellite lifted off at 6:13 a.m. from Vandenberg Space Force Base aboard a two-stage SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

It was the first mission by the NRO to reuse a SpaceX rocket booster, Vandenberg said in a statement.

The Falcon's first stage flew back and landed at the seaside base northwest of Los Angeles.

The NRO only described the NROL-85 satellite as a "critical national security payload."

Its launch was one of

three awarded by the Air Force to SpaceX in 2019 for a combined fixed price of \$297 million.

The NRO is the government agency in charge of developing, building, launching and maintaining U.S. satellites that provide intelligence data to senior policymakers, the intelligence community and the Defense Department.

Nation

US rocked by 3 mass shootings during Easter weekend; 2 dead

HAMPTON, S.C. (AP)—Authorities in South Carolina are investigating a shooting at a nightclub early Sunday that wounded at least nine people. It was the second mass shooting in the state and the third in the nation during the Easter holiday weekend.

The shootings in South Carolina and one in Pittsburgh, in which two minors were killed early Sunday, also left at least 31 people wounded.

No one was reported killed in the violence at Cara's Lounge in Hampton County, roughly 80 miles (130 kilometers) west of Charleston,

according to an email from South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division, which is investigating the shooting. A phone call to the nightclub was not answered.

In Pittsburgh, two male youths were killed and at least eight people wounded when shots were fired during a party at a short-term rental property. The "vast majority" of the hundreds of people at the party were underage, the city's Police Chief Scott Schubert told reporters. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office identified the two victims as Jaiden Brown and

Mathew Steffy-Ross, both 17.

Investigators believe there were multiple shooters, and Schubert said police were processing evidence at as many as eight separate crime scenes spanning a few blocks around the rental home.

The two shootings come just a day after gunfire erupted at a busy mall in the South Carolina state capital of Columbia, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) north of Sunday's nightclub shooting. Nine people were shot, and five people sustained other kinds of injuries while trying to flee the scene at the Columbiana Cen-

tre, Columbia Police Chief W.H. "Skip" Holbrook said Saturday. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 73. None faced life-threatening injuries.

"We don't believe this was random," Holbrook said. "We believe they knew each other and something led to the gunfire."

The only person arrested in the mall shooting so far is Jewayne M. Price, 22, one of three people initially detained by law enforcement as a person of interest. Price's attorney, Todd Rutherford, told news outlets Sunday that his client fired a gun at the mall, but in self-

defense. Rutherford said Price faces a charge of unlawfully carrying a pistol because he legally owned his gun but did not have a permit to carry a weapon.

Columbia police said on Twitter that a judge agreed Sunday to let Price leave jail on a \$25,000 surety bond. He was to be on house arrest with an ankle monitor, police said.

"It was unprovoked by him. He called the police, turned himself in, turned over the firearm that was used in this, and gave a statement to the Columbia Police Department," Rutherford said, according to

WMBF-TV. "That is why he got a \$25,000 bond."

Police said the judge will allow Price to travel from home to work during certain hours each day. Price is forbidden from contacting the victims and anyone else involved in the shooting.

South Carolina residents age 21 or older can get a weapons permit, which as of last year allows them to carry weapons openly or concealed. They must have eight hours of gun training and pass a background check that includes fingerprinting.

2 minors dead, 8 wounded in shooting at Pittsburgh party



This is the short-term rental property where police say a shooting took place at a house party in Pittsburgh early Sunday morning, April 17, 2022.

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Shots fired at a house party in Pittsburgh early Sunday killed two 17-year-olds and wounded at least eight other people, police said.

Hundreds of people—the "vast majority" of them minors—had gathered at a short-term rental property when some kind of altercation occurred and shots were fired at around 12:30 a.m., Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert said at a midday news conference.

Schubert said there was gunfire both inside and outside the rental home, "and potentially back and forth." Bullet casings found at the scene indicating handguns and one rifle were used, he said, and police believe there were multiple shooters.

Two male gunshot victims died at the hospital. The Allegheny County Medical

Examiner's Office identified them as Jaiden Brown and Mathew Steffy-Ross, both 17.

Eight people were also being treated for gunshot wounds, and others were injured trying to escape, Schubert said, including two who broke bones after jumping from windows. One victim was injured after a car was "shot up," Schubert said.

George Stevens said he was outside a bar next door to the rental property smoking a cigarette when he heard what he thought were fireworks, then saw kids fleeing.

Stevens told The Associated Press he let three girls hide in his vehicle and call their parents as bullets flew by. He said he saw someone inside the rental property holding a gun, as young people ran screaming and crying away from the building.

"It happened so quick," he

said. "It was just crazy. Kids were running everywhere."

ShotSpotter indicated more than 90 rounds were fired, and Schubert said "we know there was a lot more than that between inside the structure and outside." Police were processing evidence at as many as eight separate crime scenes spanning a few blocks around the rental home. Arriving officers found a "very chaotic" scene with injured victims, medics trying to treat them and people fleeing on foot and in vehicles, he said.

No arrests were immediately reported but Schubert said "it is our top priority to find out who did this and get them off the street." He said he couldn't comment on a possible motive, but he decried the number of illegal guns and too many people with access to them as well as the potent mixture of

alcohol, drugs and guns.

"It's heartbreaking; here we are at Easter and we have multiple families, two that won't see a loved one," Schubert said. "Others that are going to be—how can you even have a holiday when your child was involved in something traumatic like this?"

Allegheny General Health reported that seven people were treated at Allegheny General Hospital and one at Jefferson Hospital for gunshot wounds or other injuries, but officials declined to release their conditions or other information.

Pittsburgh Public Schools will impose a limited lockdown Monday "out of an abundance of caution," Interim Superintendent Wayne Walters said in a statement, meaning only people with scheduled appointments will be allowed into the district's buildings.

ACROSS THE NATION

Body of unidentified boy found in southern Indiana woods

SALEM, Ind. (AP)—The body of a young boy who may have died within the last week was found by a mushroom hunter in a wooded area in southern Indiana, and state police on Sunday asked for the public's help in identifying the child. Indiana State Police Sgt. Carey Huls said that the body of the boy, believed to be between 5 and 8 years old, was found Saturday night in the heavily wooded area of Washington County not far from a roadway. Huls said the agency does not know the name of the boy, who he described as a Black boy who is 4 feet tall, with a slim build and short hair. Huls declined to give any details, including the possible cause of death or what the boy was wearing when his body was found. But he said it appeared the boy died within the last week. He also appealed to the public to provide any information about the boy, saying somebody knows who the child was or knows the names of his parents or guardians.

Stuck container ship in Chesapeake Bay finally refloated

BALTIMORE (AP)—A container ship the length of more than three football fields has finally been pried from the muddy bottom of the Chesapeake Bay more than a month after it ran aground. After two unsuccessful attempts to dislodge it, and the subsequent removal of roughly 500 of the 5,000 containers it was carrying, the Ever Forward was refloated just before 7 a.m. Sunday by two barges and five tugboats. A full moon and high spring tide helped provide a lift to the salvage

vessels as they pulled and pushed the massive ship from the mud, across a dredged hole and back into the shipping channel. Once refloated, the Ever Forward was weighed down again by water tanks to ensure safe passage under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge on its way to an anchorage off Annapolis, The Baltimore Sun reported. Marine inspectors will examine the ship's hull before the Coast Guard allows it to return to the Port of Baltimore to retrieve the offloaded containers.

Students make video to prove their high school needs repairs

The short documentary video opens with a high school student explaining how human waste flows up from the ground and floods an area where he and his friends eat lunch. In the eight-minute video with background music and captions of key quotes, students at Druid Hills High School use iPhones to document the classrooms, hallways and bathrooms that are crumbling around them. In several scenes, plaster is falling off walls, and water is dripping around electrical outlets in one area. So much water has leaked into the weight room that it oozes up from the floor when a student steps on it. Another student demonstrates how one of the holes in a ceiling is so large that he can put his entire hand through it. "You can tell someone about the conditions but when you visually see it, it's a lot more impactful," sophomore Harley Martz, one of the students who produced the video, told The Associated Press in an interview. "Some of the things we pointed out in the video are very undeniable." (AP)

Asia

SHANGHAI QUARANTINE: 24-hour lights, no hot showers

BEIJING (AP)—Beibei sleeps beside thousands of strangers in rows of cots in a high-ceilinged exhibition center. The lights stay on all night, and the 30-year-old real estate saleswoman has yet to find a hot shower.

Beibei and her husband were ordered into the massive National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai last Tuesday after spending 10 days isolated at home following a positive test. Their 2-year-old daughter, who was negative, went to her grandfather, while her nanny also went into quarantine.

The convention center, with 50,000 beds, is among more than 100 quarantine facilities set up in Shanghai for people such as Beibei who test positive but have no symptoms. It is part of official efforts to contain China's biggest coronavirus outbreak since the 2-year-old pandemic began.

Residents show "no obvious symptoms," Beibei, who asked to be identified only by her given name, told The Associated Press in an interview by video phone.

"There are people coughing," she said. "But I have no idea if they have laryngitis or omicron."

The shutdown of Shanghai, which confined most of its 25 million people to their homes, is testing patience of people who are increasingly fed up with China's "zero-COVID" policy that aims to isolate every case.

"At the beginning people were frightened and panicked," Beibei said. "But with the publication of daily figures, people have started to accept that this particular virus is not that horrible."

Beibei was told she was due to be released Monday after two negative tests while at the convention center.

Most of Shanghai shut down starting March 28. That led to complaints about food shortages and soaring economic losses.

Anyone who tests positive but shows few or no symptoms is required to spend one week in a quarantine facility. Beibei said she had a stuffy nose and briefly lost part of her senses of taste and smell, but those symptoms passed in a few days.

On Monday, the government reported 23,460 new cases on the Chinese mainland—only 2,742 of which had symptoms. Shanghai accounted for 95% of the total, or 22,251 cases, including 2,420 with symptoms.

The city has reported more than 300,000 cases since late March. Shanghai began easing restrictions last week, though a health official warned the city didn't have its outbreak under control.

North Korea tests new nuclear weapon

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has test-fired a new type of tactical guided weapon designed to boost its nuclear fighting capability, state media reported Sunday, a day before its chief rivals the United States and South Korea begin annual drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

The 13th weapons test this year came amid concerns that North Korea may soon conduct an even larger provocation. That may include a nuclear test in an effort to expand the country's arsenal and increase pressure on Washington and Seoul while denuclearization talks remain stalled.

The official Korean Cen-

tral News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un observed what it called the weapon's successful launch. It released a photo showing a beaming Kim clapping his hands with military officers.

KCNA said the weapon tested has "great significance in drastically improving the firepower of the front-line long-range artillery units, enhancing the efficiency in the operation of (North Korea's) tactical nukes and diversification of their firepower missions."

KCNA didn't elaborate, but its use of the words "tactical nukes" suggested the weapon is likely capable of carrying a nuclear warhead that could hit strategic targets in South

Korea, including U.S. military installations. The KCNA dispatch didn't say when and where the launch occurred.

"North Korea is trying to deploy not only long-range nuclear missiles aimed at American cities but also tactical nuclear weapons to threaten Seoul and U.S. bases in Asia," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"Pyongyang's purposes likely exceed deterrence and regime survival. Like Russia employs the fear it could use tactical nukes, North Korea may want such weapons for political coercion, battlefield escalation and limiting the willingness of other countries to intervene in a conflict," he said.

14 arrested after communal violence in Indian capital

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in India's capital have arrested 14 people after communal violence broke out during a Hindu religious procession, leaving several injured, local media reported Sunday.

The suspects were arrested on charges of rioting and criminal conspiracy, among others, following the incident on Saturday night, said senior police officer Usha Rangnani, according to the Press Trust of India news agency.

At least nine people, including eight police officers, were injured and were being treated in hospitals, Rangnani said.

Authorities say Hindu and Muslim groups in Jahangirpuri, a neighborhood in north-west New Delhi, threw stones

at each other during a religious procession celebrating the birth of the Hindu god Hanuman on Saturday night. Police were investigating the incident and it remains unclear what sparked the violence.

It was the worst violence in New Delhi since 2020, when 53 people died in a large-scale communal unrest amid tensions over a controversial citizenship law that excluded Muslims.

Delhi's police commissioner tweeted late Saturday night that the situation in the neighborhood was under control after additional forces were deployed.

The capital's chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, appealed for peace in the city and condemned the incident.

In videos posted on social

media, streets in Jahangirpuri are seen littered with broken glass and stones while photos show heavily damaged vehicles. The unrest came after similar reports of communal violence and hate speech in a handful of other Indian states over the past week.

On April 10, a number of people were injured after anti-Muslim songs were blared through speakers during a procession to mark the birth of the Hindu god Ram in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, local media reported. A day later in the western state of Gujarat, one person died and many others were injured in violence following the festival, prompting curfews and a ban on gatherings in some parts of the state.

World

Ukraine defenders in Mariupol defy surrender-or-die demand



A woman is taken to an ambulance after being injured in a Russian bombardment in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Sunday, April 17, 2022. AP

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian fighters who were holed up in a massive steel plant in the last known pocket of resistance inside the shattered city of Mariupol ignored a surrender-or-die ultimatum from Russia on Sunday and held out against the capture of the strategically vital port.

The fall of Mariupol, the site of a merciless 7-week-old siege that has reduced much of the city to a smoking ruin, would be Moscow's biggest victory of the war and free up troops to take part in a potentially climactic battle for control of Ukraine's industrial east.

Capturing the southern city would also allow Russia to fully secure a land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which it seized from Ukraine in 2014, and deprive Ukraine of a major port and its prized industrial assets.

As its missiles and rockets slammed into other parts of the country, Russia estimated that 2,500 Ukrainian troops and about 400 foreign mercenaries were dug in at the sprawling Azovstal steel mill, which covers more than 11 square kilometers (4 square miles) and is laced with tunnels.

Many Mariupol civilians, including children, are also sheltering at the Azovstal plant, Mikhail Vershinin, head of the city's patrol police, told Mariupol television on Sunday. He said they are hiding from Russian shelling, and from any occupying Russian soldiers.

Moscow had given the defenders a midday deadline

to surrender and "keep their lives," but the Ukrainians rejected it, as they've done with previous ultimatums.

"We will fight absolutely to the end, to the win, in this war," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal vowed on ABC's "This Week." He said Ukraine is prepared to end the war through diplomacy if possible, "but we do not have intention to surrender."

As for besieged Mariupol, there appeared to be little hope Sunday of military rescue by Ukrainian forces anytime soon. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the remaining Ukrainian troops and civilians in Mariupol are basically encircled. He said they "continue their struggle," but that the city effectively doesn't exist anymore because of massive destruction.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sent Easter greetings via Twitter, saying: "The Lord's Resurrection is a testimony to the victory of life over death, good over evil."

If Mariupol falls, Russian forces there are expected to join an all-out offensive in the coming days for control of the Donbas, the eastern industrial region that the Kremlin is bent on capturing after failing in its bid to take Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

The relentless bombardment and street fighting in Mariupol have killed at least 21,000 people, by the Ukrainians' estimate. A maternity hospital was hit by a lethal Russian airstrike in the

opening weeks of the war, and about 300 people were reported killed in the bombing of a theater where civilians were taking shelter.

An estimated 100,000 remained in the city out of a prewar population of 450,000, trapped without food, water, heat or electricity in a siege that has made Mariupol the scene of some of the worst suffering of the war.

"All those who will continue resistance will be destroyed," Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Russian Defense Ministry's spokesman, said in announcing the latest ultimatum.

Drone footage carried by the Russian news agency RIA-Novosti showed towering plumes of smoke over the steel complex, which sits on the outskirts of the bombed-out city, on the Sea of Azov.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar described Mariupol as a "shield defending Ukraine" as Russian troops prepare for battle in the mostly Russian-speaking Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists already control some territory.

Russian forces, meanwhile, carried out aerial attacks near Kyiv and elsewhere in an apparent effort to weaken Ukraine's military capacity ahead of the anticipated assault.

After the humiliating sinking of the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet last week in what the Ukrainians boasted was a missile attack, the Kremlin had vowed to step up strikes on the capital.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: LX 600 is one upscale monster

By MARC D. GRASSO
BOSTON HERALD

Big, bigger, biggest, let me start out with saying this thing is a monster.

As the huge and ginormous SUV market is all the craze, for this week's test Lexus is offering its all-new 2022 LX 600. Not only is this a gorgeous SUV, but one that brings so much to the auto review table.

First we acknowledge the space and size of the flagship LX 600 luxury. Wrapped in Atomic Silver with a Black leather interior and black open pore ornamentation, the LX 600 boasts passenger seating for seven, heated and ventilated seats, one-touch power

folding rear seats and a cool box. The front seats extend nicely and offer plenty of legroom and are ultra-inviting without the cockpit-like feel.

Technology-wise, we notice some great upgrades over the prior LX570 model as well. In desperate need of a refresh, the LX 600 takes care of that and then some, offering a 12.3 in. touchscreen display with navigation, Mark Levinson 25-speaker surround sound stereo, 11.4-inch rear-seat entertainment, wireless Apple Carplay and Android Auto. Plus, six USB ports, a wireless charging station on the center console, Bluetooth capabilities are just a few of the available features.

Powering the LX 600 be-

hemoth is a 409 horsepower, 3.5-liter twin turbo V6 engine producing 479 lb.-ft. of torque. A 10-speed direct-shift automatic transmission is also present. Towing capacity is up to 8,000 pounds while crawl control and full time four-wheel drive are also standard.

Riding on 22-inch forged alloy wheels, the LX 600 is a dream machine for mass quantity ridership and overall usage. Lets not forget its 4WD capabilities, this off-road dream will go anywhere and look good doing it. Specifically designed for families who enjoy mountain retreats, hiking and biking, the LX 600 is just the SUV for you. Gas mileage seemed to be better,

as well, over the LX 570 but still wasn't excellent as our test came in under 19 mpg. Limited body roll and proportionate styling really helped confirm Lexus is on its game.

Although bigger isn't always better, for Lexus, it is exactly what it wanted. The previous LX 570 was in dire need of an update and with endless customers asking for a refresh, and Lexus did just that. When the LX 600 hit the production floor, there was no looking back for Lexus as this is a dream machine.

- Lexus LX 600
- MSRP: \$103,000
- As tested: \$107,805
- MPG: 17 city, 22 highway, 18.8 as tested

What happens when police pull over a driverless car? Watch this video and see

By KALEA HALL
THE DETROIT NEWS

Who gets a ticket in a driverless car? It turns out no one does, the San Francisco Police learned recently.

Earlier this month, a pedestrian caught sight of a Cruise LLC autonomous vehicle getting pulled over by San Francisco Police, took video and posted it on Instagram.

The footage posted April 2 shows a cruiser pulling behind the shuttle after pulling it over. As an officer gets out of the police car and walks toward the Cruise vehicle, a voice can be heard saying, "Ain't nobody in it."

The officer looks through the driver's side window and appears to try opening the door, then walks back toward his car. The AV then rolls forward toward a nearby intersection, proceeds through a green light and pulls over on the other side of the intersection with its hazard lights blinking.

The police car, with its yellow roof lights flashing, pulls up behind the Cruise vehicle. Two officers get out, walk up to the vehicle on either side,



GIUSEPPE CACACE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS

This picture taken on Nov. 30, 2021, shows a view from the interior of one of the self-driving taxis being used in a tech demonstration in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, to transport passengers to the nearby Yas Island.

and peer through its windows as passersby chuckle. A woman's voice is heard: "Oh my God, finally!"

It's not clear why the autonomous car was pulled over. A San Francisco Police public information officer didn't immediately respond Monday to phone and email messages seeking more information.

The traffic stop occurred

two months after Cruise, which is majority-owned by General Motors Co., began offering rides in its autonomous vehicles to the public in San Francisco.

Cruise responded to the video on Twitter, saying the "AV yielded to the police vehicle, then pulled over to the nearest safe location for the traffic stop, as intended. An officer

contacted Cruise personnel and no citation was issued."

The company added it works "closely with the SFPD on how to interact with our vehicles, including a dedicated phone number for them to call in situations like this."

Cruise provides materials for first responders to know how to interact with its driverless fleet.

But since the industry is still the early stages of deploying self-driving vehicles, there's not really standardized procedures, specifically at the federal level, for how first responders should deal with AVs.

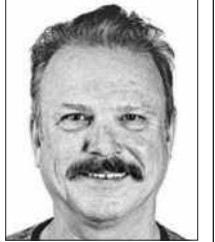
"Now is probably the time when we should be having this conversation," said Sam Abuelsamid, principal research analyst leading Guidehouse Insights.

"And it should probably be a uniform approach that's taken. We should have the entire industry come to some agreement on how we're going to deal with this; how the vehicles are going to respond if there's a law enforcement or emergency vehicle that is trying to pull them over."

Cruise is targeting a commercial deployment this year.

MOTORMOUTH: So how does the gas pedal work?

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications.

His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q: I get in the car and step on the gas and the car takes off. How does this work? How does the engine respond to my foot on the gas pedal?

A: It's all about air and how much of it enters the engine. From carburetors to computer-controlled fuel injection, the science has remained the same. Press the pedal and the throttle plate opens to allow the air to get sucked in. Most engines rely on a mass airflow sensor located ahead of the throttle plate to measure the airflow and then, based on that data, the injectors squirt the right amount to maintain an air-fuel ratio of exactly 14.7 to 1.

Q: I do not understand the constant call for people to slow down and save gas, a call being re-emphasized as gas prices zoom up. Why is that a proper call? Here's my thinking. The sticker on any car in any showroom states the mpg for city driving and the one for highway driving; the latter is always higher because one is driving faster and less encumbered. Fuel is being more efficiently used when one is cruising unimpeded down the highway. I get better mileage (by far) in highway driving as against stop-and-start driving. As I see it faster, less-impeded driving is more economical than grandpa's driving mode.

A: As speed increases, drag, caused by pushing air, also increases. There is an optimum speed above which fuel economy suffers. I could quote the formula that the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) developed, but only an engineer would probably get it. I certainly don't. Like Sammy Hagar sang, "I can't drive 55." But it might help.

Q: I own a 1965 Chevy

Impala, 283 CID, 4-BBL, 2-speed Powerglide, dual exhaust convertible. My very first car back in 1971 was a '65 Impala but, as most of us did, I trashed it. I bought this one in 2005 and when I go to car shows, there sometimes are discussions as to what car holds the record as the most manufactured automobile in a single year. I have heard that the '65 and '66 Impala hold the record consecutively and have, so far, never been surpassed. Can you verify this for me?

A: I had a 1965 Impala SS, dark green metal flake, 283 CID, 4-barrel Rochester carb, tucked and rolled interior. It was trashed by someone who rear-ended me. I miss that car. Now it's my turn to do the asking: Dear readers, can you help me answer B.O.'s question?

Q: Is it wise to use no-ox gas in lawnmower, snowblower, small lawn tractors?

A: By no-ox fuel I presume you mean gasoline without an oxygenate. It is commonly called ethanol. Today's small engines are designed to accept blends of gas with up to 10 percent ethanol. Do not use E15 (15 percent) or E85 (85 percent). You need not spend extra cash for pure, straight gasoline, especially at today's prices.

Q: Should small engines on lawnmowers and snow throwers, etc. be run dry at the end of the season or does that cause damage?

A: Although doing so is a good idea, many of us are probably too lazy to run the tank dry. It is easier to just add some fuel stabilizer such as Sta-Bil, which helps avoid varnish buildup, especially in the carburetor. You can't cause damage by running out of gas.

Electric vehicle growth outpaces installation of battery chargers

As electric vehicle sales take off, the number of those EVs on the road is growing faster than the number of public charging points to support them. That's one of the high-level conclusions from an in-depth study on the state of public charging infrastructure that my BNEF colleague Ryan Fisher published recently.

The number of EVs on the road per public charging point globally rose to 9.2 at the end of last year, from 7.4 at the end of 2020.

That's not surprising. Last year was a breakout year for plug-in vehicle sales globally, with 6.6 million sold, while charging infrastructure growth was more in line with historical averages.

The global data hides a lot of nuance though. At the country level the dynamics get really interesting. For example, despite record EV sales in China last year, public charging points there kept pace and the ratio between EVs and chargers has been relatively constant since 2018. This

is because of a huge push taking place in China to expand charging infrastructure taking place — the country claims more than half the world's public charging points.

In markets like the U.S., the number of EVs on the road per charger has grown steadily higher over the last year, so there are fewer chargers for every EV on the road. That effect is even more pronounced in Europe, where EV sales have surged since 2019. In Germany, the ratio went from

8 EVs per public charging point in 2019 to 20 in 2021.

A country like China probably needs more public chargers than the U.S. or Germany because of the housing stock there, as a much higher share of people there live in high rise apartments. Those high-rise dwellers are less likely to have home charging options and will need to rely on the public network more than an EV owner in a U.S. suburb who does 80-90% of their charging at home in their garage. (Bloomberg News)

Life & Style

For 'Fantastic Beasts' series, a case of diminishing returns

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

"Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" got off to a less than magical start in its first weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters. The third installment in the Harry Potter spinoff opened to \$43 million in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was enough to secure the film the top spot on the box office charts, but it's also a low for the franchise. The first film had a \$74.4 million debut in 2016 and the second, "The Crimes of Grindelwald" opened to \$62.2 million in 2018. "The Secrets of Dumbledore," which Warner Bros. released in 4,208 locations in North America, also carries a \$200 million production price tag.

It's more common than not for sequels and threequels to



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows, from left, Jessica Williams, Callum Turner, Jude Law, Fionna Glascock, Dan Fogler and Eddie Redmayne in a scene from "Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore."

come in lower than their predecessors, but "Dumbledore" also follows several franchise titles that defied that logic,

including "Spider-Man: No Way Home," "Venom 2" and "Sonic the Hedgehog 2." Critics were largely not on

board with "Dumbledore." With a 49% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, most came in on the negative side. AP Film

Writer Jake Coyle wrote in his review that "the purpose of these movies has never felt like much beyond keeping the Potter train running" and that this iteration is "a bit of a bore." Audiences, which were 56% female, were a little kinder, giving it four stars on PostTrak and an overall B+ CinemaScore.

The eight Harry Potter films were responsible for over \$7.7 billion in box office, while the first two "Fantastic Beasts" films made \$1.5 billion total.

This installment stars Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Ezra Miller and Mads Mikkelsen, who replaced Johnny Depp as Grindelwald. In November 2020, following Depp's failed libel case against The Sun tabloid newspaper for an article that labeled him a "wife beater," the actor said Warner Bros. asked him to step down and that he agreed.

As with previous "Fantastic Beasts" films, however, "Dumbledore" has more hope

internationally. Its grosses are \$193 million worldwide. Both of the previous films made over 70% of their global totals from international showings.

"Recapturing the original 'Harry Potter' magic that began some 20 years ago in cinemas is a tall order," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The 'Fantastic Beasts' franchise, while seeing diminishing returns with each successive installment, still has enough of a devoted fanbase to conjure up respectable numbers particularly with international audiences which have always provided the lion's share of the box office for these films."

Dergarabedian added that the true test for "Dumbledore" will be the second weekend.

Also, as Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. head of domestic distribution, pointed out, the films are just one part of the Wizarding World.

"It's part of a bigger strat-

William and Kate lead royals at Easter service; queen absent

LONDON (AP)—Senior British royals including Prince William and his wife Kate have attended an Easter Sunday church service at Windsor Castle.

Queen Elizabeth II, who has been experiencing mobility problems, did not attend the service at St. George's Chapel on the castle grounds, a fixture in the royals' calendar.

William and Kate, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, were accompanied by two of their three children: Prince George, 8, and 6-year-old Princess Charlotte.

Also in attendance were the queen's youngest son, Prince Edward, with his wife Sophie and their children, and Princess Eugenie, the daughter of



Britain's Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge arrive with Prince George and Princess Charlotte to the Easter Mattins Service at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in Berkshire, England, Sunday, April 17, 2022.

Prince Andrew.

The queen, who turns 96 on Thursday, is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this year, marking 70 years on the throne.

She cut back on public duties on her doctors' orders since spending a night in hospital in October, and also had a bout of COVID-19 in February. She attended a memorial service last month for her late husband Prince Philip, and has continued to meet virtually with diplomats and politicians.

On Thursday she had a visit from her grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan — the first time the couple has visited the U.K. together since they stepped down as working royals in 2020 and moved to California.

Rapper Bankroll Freddie arrested on drug and weapons charges

MARION, Ark. (AP)—Rapper Bankroll Freddie was in an Arkansas jail Friday after being arrested on federal drug and weapons charges, officials said.

The 27-year-old performer, known off stage as Freddie Demarus Gladney of Conway, Arkansas, was arrested about 6:30 p.m. Thursday during a traffic stop for speeding on Interstate 55 in Marion, Arkansas, almost 20 miles from Memphis, Tennessee,



Gladney

according to the Arkansas State Police.

A search of Freddie's pickup truck yielded a gun, 21 pounds of marijuana and 171 grams of the prescription sedative promethazine, said Arkansas State Police spokesman Bill Sadler.

Freddie was booked into the Crittenden County Detention Center on state drug and weapons charges and held for the FBI on equivalent federal charges. Jail and court records list no attorney for him.

Woman runs out of patience with boyfriend's addiction

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend for five years. We do not live together, nor do we share any children (we have three grown kids from previous marriages). He has been a smoker since he was very young, and when we got together, he said he would like to quit. Well, it still hasn't happened.

As the child of an addict (alcohol) I understand how difficult quitting can be. Luckily, my father quit cold turkey 20 years ago and never relapsed. Abby, I do not want a future with a smoker. The smell of stale tobacco is unappealing. It's not exactly a breath freshener, and the health consequences are dire.

Am I within my rights to put my foot down? I brought up quitting this week in response to him lamenting that he looks aged beyond his years (which is true). He became very defensive and made me seem like a monster for asking for a real timeline about quitting. He struggles with anxiety and thinks trying to quit will send him over the edge, and I would be the one pushing him. How do I navigate future conversations?

CHOKING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR CHOKING: Tell your boyfriend you care about him and about his health, but you can no longer tolerate watching him damage it because of his tobacco addiction. If he

doesn't already know that the smell on his breath, body and clothing is offensive, point it out, and also that secondhand smoke is unhealthy for you. Then tell him he has a choice to make: It's the smoking or you. The decision is his. There are many effective smoking cessation programs available, and he should discuss them with his physician, who may be delighted to know he is interested.

P.S. In this day and age many women—and men—simply "swipe left" if they encounter a smoker.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am currently in a relationship that is approaching the seven-year mark. We dated in our 20s and rekindled in our 40s. We live together, but I'm afraid we are growing apart. Due to health issues, I don't work; he works second shift. I cry easily and have always been an emotional person.

When there are disagreements, we can usually work it out. My problem is, I think about the discussion later and have more to say or ask. He then tells me we have already talked about it and he's not discussing it again. He says I "overanalyze everything." It's not that. I just have another question or something I left out.

His refusal to talk makes me feel as though things are unresolved. He just downright won't talk about something we have already discussed! Please help me to understand if I am too de-

DEAR ABBY

By **Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



manding and should just leave it alone.

UNANSWERED

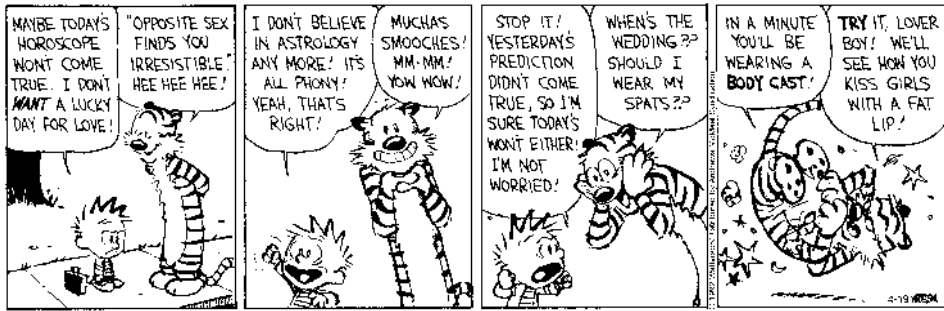
DEAR UNANSWERED: It isn't "too demanding" to want to discuss something further. If revisiting the issue would rekindle the disagreement, your partner is far too controlling. If you have a question, there's no reason why you shouldn't be able to ask without it leading to conflict. To deny you that opportunity seems disrespectful.

Give it more time after a disagreement and decide if it's really necessary to revisit the subject. When you do, avoid reapproaching it in a way that could be perceived as an invitation to another argument.

Pastimes

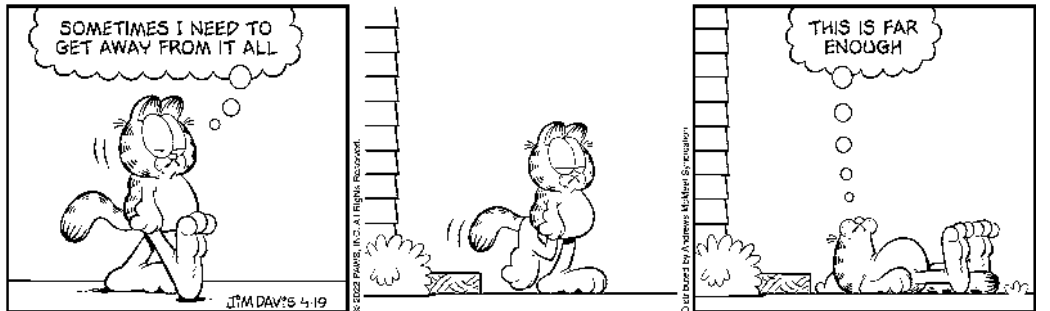
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



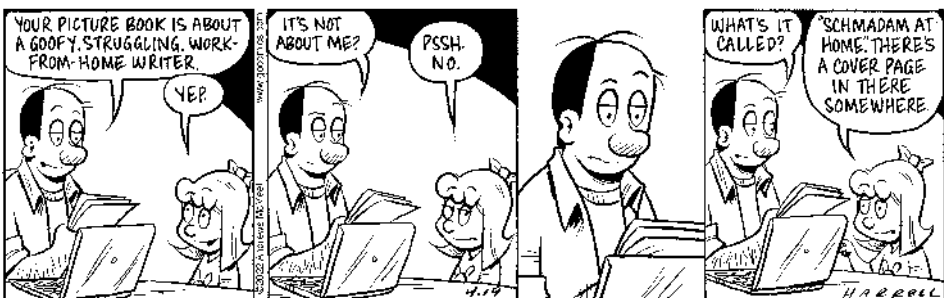
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Twinkler in the sky
5 Blitzer's channel
8 Iowa city
12 Give a hoot
13 High card
14 Ale variety
15 Tennis score
16 Zoo
18 Amber wine
20 Inventor Howe
21 Carefree
22 Crony
23 President Martin Van
26 "Vogue" singer
30 "— was saying ..."
31 Inlet
32 Watch chain
33 Wisconsin's capital
36 Winter woes
38 Bashful
39 AAA job

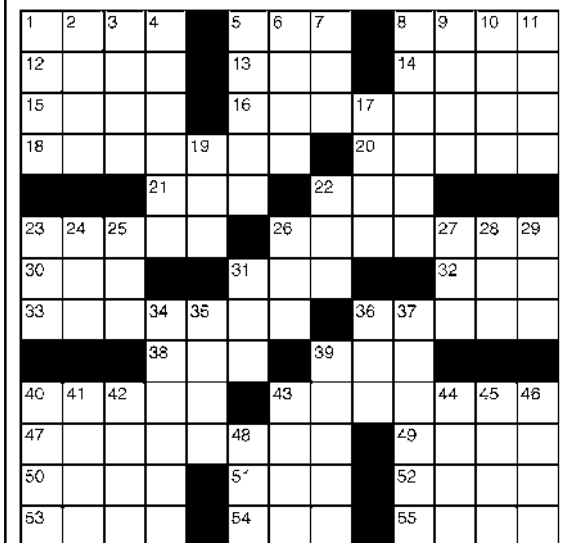
DOWN

40 "Hello" singer
43 Folly
47 Kahn of "Blazing Saddles"
49 Big fair, for short
50 Body sci.
51 Steal from
52 Tara of "Sharknado"
53 Skye caps
54 GI's address
55 Taxpayer IDs
1 Swindle
2 "I did it!"
3 Saharan
4 Break a promise
5 Toyota model
6 Final
7 Com-poser
8 Lunar program
9 Hawaiian island
10 "Born Free"
11 Beholds lioness
12 Gl's
17 Lettuce unit
19 Author Fleming
22 Salary
23 "Kapow!"
24 "Born in the —"
25 Abolish
26 Fortify
27 Dolphins' org.
28 Doze (off)
29 Tummy muscles
31 Lad
34 Specks in the ocean
35 Writer Sil-verstein
36 Atlantic fish
37 Title holders
39 Cardio-boxing routine
40 Latin 101 word
41 Comic Carvey
42 Dutch cheese
43 L-Q bridge
44 Former mates
45 Short drive
46 Freshens lawns
48 Play-wright Levin

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	O	N	D	M	A	P	N	A	M	E
A	I	E	E	E	I	A	E	M	I	I
S	O	N	O	A	G	A	P	E	A	R
S	O	N	O	A	A	U	D	E	R	E
I	O	W	A	M	I					
H	A	P	S	I	A	R	S	E	L	L
S	H	E	E	I	F	O	S	L	I	D
I	A	C	O	I	A	P	S	H	O	E
A	J	K	I	H	U					
K	A	N	S	A	S	I	S	S	E	D
N	A	P	I	I	M	E	S	I	H	O
E	R	I	E	U	L	I	N	I	N	G
W	E	E	D	I	I	S	E	S	S	E

Yesterday's answer 4-19



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Candace Parker, 36; Hayden Christensen, 41; Kate Hudson, 43; Ashley Judd, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take the high road, keep the peace and use your intelligence to guide you in the right direction. Look at the big picture, source what you can afford and turn it into something worthwhile. Patience will lead to opportunity and the chance to use your skills to improve things that help you and those close to you. Keep the peace. Your numbers are 4, 15, 19, 28, 31, 33, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your money in a safe place. Emotional spending or paying for a mistake will put you in a difficult position. Pinch pennies and save for a rainy day. Time is on your side, and observation will help you make better decisions. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get angry; get moving. Put your energy where it will do some good. Don't make waves when what you achieve will have a more significant impact on how you live or how you do things. Choose peace over chaos. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will escalate if you or someone else falls short. Promise only what you know you can deliver, and don't debate with business associates if you want to avoid a feud. Make your intentions clear, and channel your energy into purpose. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your eyes on the ball, don't mix business with pleasure and avoid sensitive topics with argumentative people. If you want to change,

go about it secretly. Before you share, put everything in place. Look inward and concentrate on growth and enlightenment. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let impulsiveness take over. Rummage through your thoughts, use logic and think twice before making an emotional statement, purchase or risk that can cause damage to you physically, financially or emotionally. Discipline and moderation are your redeeming qualities. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Set your sights on what's doable, and surround yourself with people who are eager to participate. Discuss the changes you feel are necessary to get to your destination with someone who has a different perspective, and you will gain insight. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to health, responsibilities and sticking to budget. Don't display inconsistency. Share facts and budget wisely, regardless of the decisions others make. Maintaining balance, equality in all aspects of life will pay off. ****

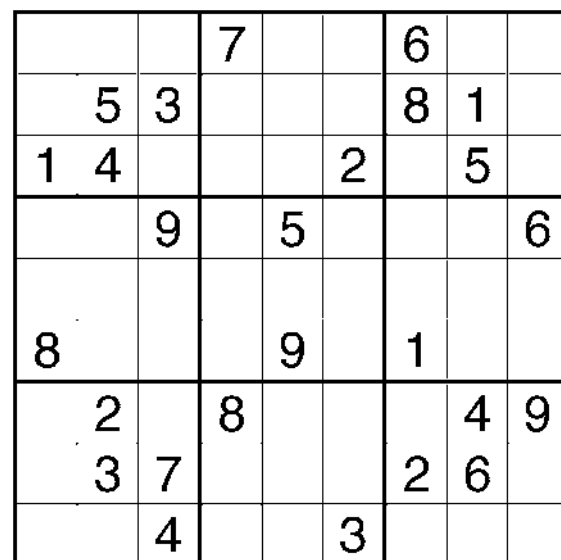
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Protect what you've got, and give no one a reason to doubt you. Take note of what a friend, relative or colleague has to say. Do something creative to ease stress and make you think about what you want to do next. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Problems will mount if you give someone the upper hand. Be careful what you share with people. You'll be misinterpreted or misled by someone trying to outmaneuver you. Don't display your emotions or vulnerabilities. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

4/19

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Avoid getting involved in joint ventures or shared expenses. You won't see eye to eye when it comes to budgets and what's necessary. A lifestyle change will be successful if it complements what you do for a living. Self-improvement is featured. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Assess your situation, and adjust your tactics. It's up to you to build the life that makes you happy. Don't argue with someone who doesn't play fair. Decide what you want, then make it happen. Don't live in someone's shadow. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Learn from experience. Before you battle with someone, consider the consequences.

Put your emotions aside, pour your energy into following your heart, and invest time, effort and money to reach your objective. Make peace and love priorities. **

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, captivating and risky. You are astute and complex.

☾ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REMEMBERING THE SEGWAY

Solution: 6 letters

S I S E K A R B F O O T P A D
D E N K E Y S R A M G B O D Y
T R I D G T A P R L E S W S E
N C A R I M E O M T A D E G T
E O E W E C F M S U R N R E S
M N P O R T A B L E B A C C U
E T E T A O T T S E H H I E J
V R P L U G F A O C H T F D D
O O P D E R A D B R O R R R A
M L A E P C N T B E O U I L
L L R E O A T O D W D T V A
E E K P T Y R N S T A M E I
F R D S S E H E I G H T T R R
T T O O L S F S K C E H C T E
T N U O M S I D N U M B E R S

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4/19

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Tatum's layup at buzzer gives Celtics 115-114 win over Nets

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum has been adamant he didn't view the Celtics' matchup with the Nets as a chance to prove anything opposite two of the league's elite scorers.

His finish in Game 1 said otherwise.

Tatum made a layup at the buzzer on a pass from Marcus Smart to give Boston a dramatic 115-114 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

"When he took that dribble we just kind of made eye contact. He made a great pass," Tatum said. "It doesn't get any better than that. A buzzer-beater in a playoff game at home."

Tatum scored 31 points, the last two on the first buzzer-beater of his career. It was Boston's first in the postseason since Paul Pierce in 2010 against the Heat.

Tatum's bucket came after a poised Boston possession in the frantic final seconds. Kevin Durant missed on the other end, Boston rebounded and raced up the court, electing not to call a timeout.

Jaylen Brown dribbled toward the middle and swung the ball out to Smart. He fired it into a cutting Tatum, who spun around and dropped in his layup just before time expired.

"I've always been told you have more time than you realize you have," Smart said. "I was about to throw it to Al (Horford) off the dribble and I saw JT cut at the last minute."

All five Celtics touched the ball on the possession.

"I think that's kind of a microcosm for our season, guys moving the ball being unselfish," coach Ime Udoka said.

Brown added 23 points for the Celtics, who host Game 2 on Wednesday. Horford had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) celebrates with guard Derrick White (9) after making a layup at the buzzer to score and win Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round Eastern Conference playoff series against the Brooklyn Nets, Sunday, April 17, 2022, in Boston.

Smart finished with 20 points, including four 3-pointers.

Kyrie Irving finished with 39 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter. But the Celtics forced the ball out of his hands the last time Brooklyn had it and Durant missed a jumper with a one-point lead that set up the Celtics' final possession.

Durant added 23 points but shot just 9 of 24.

"They did a good job of forcing me away, then helping in the paint. I just got to be more fundamental in my moves," he said. "I feel like some shots went in an out for me."

Boston charged out of half-time with a 23-8 run to open a 82-69 lead, sparked by Smart's dead-eye shooting from beyond the arc.

The Celtics also seemed to tweak their approach to guarding Durant in the half court, fronting him and sending help over the top to limit his driving ability.

Durant and Irving still found ways to score, but they had to exert increased energy to get off their attempts.

It didn't last.

With Boston leading early in the fourth, Irving got Brooklyn back in the mix with two straight 3-pointers and a layup to trim Boston's advantage to 98-97. Then, following an empty trip by Boston that saw Brown and Horford fail to convert from in close, Durant calmly drained a 3 on the other end.

Brooklyn had increased its lead to 107-102 when Durant was long with a jumper.

Brown found space on the Celtics' next possession and connected on a 3 from the wing. The Nets turned it back over on an offensive foul on Durant. Smart then slid underneath Irving on Boston's ensuring trip and tied it.

The score was tied again at 109 with less than 2 minutes left when Durant got a friendly bounce on a jumper. Horford's follow shot tied it again. But Irving was good from deep on the next time down the floor give the Nets a 114-111 cushion.

Brown then tied it coming out of a timeout with 38 seconds left.

In his latest trip to face his former Boston teammates, Irving received the loudest jeers during pregame introductions and was booed whenever

he touched the ball the rest of the way.

Fans also showered plenty disdain on Bruce Brown, who made headlines last week after suggesting Celtics big men Horford and Daniel Theis might be easy to attack inside without injured center Robert Williams III available to defend the rim.

Horford played the opening 12 minutes as if on a one-man mission to obliterate that notion.

Boston entered with the league's best defensive rating since the All-Star break and applied early pressure on Durant. He tried to establish himself in the post in the first quarter, but the Celtics blitzed him with backside help defenders, stripping him three times.

Brooklyn finished with seven turnovers for the quarter, but it translated into only a 29-28 lead for Boston.

Horford was active throughout, going 3 for 4 from the field with 10 points, two rebounds and a steal.

Boston had to adjust early in the second quarter after Theis picked up his third foul. But things evened out when Drummond was whistled for his fourth foul with 4:58 left in the period.

The Celtics immediately went on a 9-2 run before the Nets clawed back to tie the game up at 61 at the half.

"Stayed with it, took their shot and found a way to finish the game," Horford said. "End of the day it's just getting the win, it doesn't matter how it was."

Suns 110, Pelicans 99
In Phoenix, Chris Paul scored

19 of his 30 points during a brilliant fourth-quarter shooting display and Phoenix beat New Orleans in Game 1 of the Western Conference series.

The top-seeded Suns needed Paul's big finish despite dominating most of the game. The Pelicans shook off a slow start, cutting a 23-point deficit to 79-71 by the end of the third. New Orleans kept hitting shots in the fourth, but that's when Paul took over, hitting three 3-pointers and a layup in 2 1/2 minutes in a flurry that kept the Pelicans chasing.

Paul shot 12 for 16 from the field, including 4 of 6 on 3-pointers. Devin Booker added 25 points, and Deandre Ayton 21 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. CJ McCollum led the Pelicans with 25 points, Valanciunas added 18 points and 25 rebounds. Brandon Ingram also scored 18 points.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Bucks 93, Bulls 86

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 16 rebounds and defending champion Milwaukee recovered to beat Chicago after blowing a 16-point lead in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

Tru Holiday made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 5:03 left as part of an 8-0 run that gave the Bucks an 85-78 edge. The Bulls got the margin down to one but could never regain the lead, as Zach LaVine missed a potential tying 3-pointer from nearly 30 feet away with 29 seconds left.

The Bucks have won 17 of their last 18 meetings with the Bulls, including all five matchups this season.

Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Milwaukee.

Heat 115, hawks 91

In Miami, Duncan Robinson set a franchise playoff record with eight 3-pointers and Miami forced Trae Young into matching the worst-shooting game of his career in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

Robinson scored 27 points on 9-of-10 shooting for the top-seeded Heat, going 8 of 9 from 3-point range. Jimmy Butler scored 21 points, and P.J. Tucker had 16.

Young went 1 for 12, matching his effort against Chicago on Jan. 23, 2019. Danilo Gallinari led Atlanta with 17 points, and DeAndre Hunter had 14.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Miami.

Jokic, Embiid, Antetokounmpo finalists for NBA MVP honors

NEW YORK (AP)—Nikola Jokic is a finalist to win a second straight NBA MVP award, along with two-time winner Giannis Antetokounmpo and Joel Embiid.

The NBA unveiled the top-three finishers in voting for its individual awards Sunday, with the expected names in the running for the marquee award.

Jokic, the Denver Nuggets center, ended Antetokounmpo's two-year reign last season and was every bit as good this season. Embiid, hoping to join them in the MVP club, led the NBA in scoring.

The winners of the awards will be announced during the postseason.

The other finalists are:

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mikal Bridges (Phoenix),



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) shoots against the Golden State Warriors during the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in San Francisco, Saturday, April 16, 2022.

Rudy Gobert (Utah), Marcus Smart (Boston).

COACH OF THE YEAR

Taylor Jenkins (Memphis), Erik Spoelstra (Miami), Monty Williams (Phoenix).

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Darius Garland (Cleveland), Ja Morant (Memphis), Dejounte Murray (San Antonio).

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Scottie Barnes (Toronto), Cade Cunningham (Detroit), Evan Mobley (Cleveland).

SIXTH MAN OF THE YEAR

Tyler Herro (Miami), Cam Johnson (Phoenix), Kevin Love (Cleveland).

Alonso hustles, homers as Mets blank Diamondbacks, 5-0



NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso hustled around the bases to spark the pivotal rally and later hit a two-run homer that helped the New York Mets beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-0 on Sunday.

Pinch-hitter J.D. Davis delivered an RBI single in a three-run sixth inning and five Mets pitchers combined on a five-hitter for New York's third shutout in 10 games this season.

"We've been playing really good team baseball," Alonso said. "Today is a great example of that. We had excellent pitching. We had high-quality team at-bats, especially later in the game, and we got it done."

Filling in for injured Taijuan Walker, left-hander David Peterson tossed 4 1/3 effective innings that left Mets starters with a 1.07 ERA overall — lowest for any team after 10 games since earned runs became an official statistic in both leagues back in 1913.

Trevor Williams got two outs and Chasen Shreve (1-0) pitched two perfect innings to earn New York's first win by a reliever this year. Drew Smith and Edwin Díaz worked an inning apiece to finish it.

Williams gave up the only two hits charged to the Mets' bullpen, which entered with a 4.64 ERA.

New York took two of three from the shaky Diamondbacks and improved to 7-3, the club's best 10-game start since opening 9-1 in 2018. The Mets have won 12 of 13 home games against Arizona dating to August 2017.

New York broke a scoreless tie in the sixth with aggressive baserunning. With one out, Alonso went from first to third as Eduardo Escobar legged out a double to right off Noé Ramirez (0-1). Pavin Smith rushed a throw from the outfield that sailed high for an error, allowing the burly Alonso to score.

"That's awesome," Alonso said. "I think if we don't press the issue there then we don't score a run, because Eddie busting out of the box right after contact, and I think him hustling the whole way, I think that forces the defense to try and make a play and I feel like our aggression paid off on the basepaths."

Davis singled home the second run against former Mets pitcher Óliver Pérez, who was making his 700th career appearance, and Dominic Smith dashed home on a shallow sacrifice fly by James McCann.

Alonso connected off Matt Peacock in the seventh. All three of the slugger's home runs and 11 of his 14 RBIs this season have come as a designated hitter.

"How about that 3-iron he hit?" manager Buck Showalter said. "He hit it through the wind."

Arizona starter Humberto Castellanos allowed one hit over four innings, the first scoreless start of his career.

The punchless Diamondbacks were shut out for the second time. Arizona scored six runs in the series.

"There's a couple of plays I think if we make and we execute and we do things differently, it's a totally different game," manager Torey Lovullo said. "We've got to tighten that type of stuff up."

Angels 8, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Mike Trout left Los Angeles' win over Texas after being hit in his left hand by a pitch, but the team said X-rays were negative and the three-time AL MVP is day to day.

Mike Mayers (1-0) retired two of three batters to end the fifth for starter Jose Suarez. The Angels have won three straight for the first time since August.

Adolis Garcia hit a two-run home run for the Rangers, who have lost three straight and are 2-7 to open the season for the first time since 2006. Texas starter Martin Perez (0-2) allowed four runs, three earned, in four innings.

Dodgers 9, Reds 1

In Los Angeles, Freddie Freeman had four hits and three RBIs, Andrew Heaney struck out 11 over six innings of one-hit ball in a scoreless home debut, and Los Angeles completed a four-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Max Muncy, Will Smith and Chris Taylor had RBI doubles during a seven-run fourth on another dominant day for Los Angeles, which has won six straight.

Heaney (1-0) posted his 15th career start with at least 10 strikeouts. He walked three and allowed only a third-inning double by Kyle Farmer.

Tyler Mahle (1-1) struck out five before finding big trouble in the fourth, eventually yielding seven runs on seven hits. The Reds have lost six straight.

Padres 2, Braves 1

In San Diego, Yu Darvish rebounded from the shortest outing of his career by dominating into the seventh inning and San Diego beat Atlanta despite having just three hits.

Darvish (1-1) struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings after covering just 1 2/3 innings and allowing nine runs against San Francisco on Tuesday. He allowed his only run on Marcell Ozuna's homer in the seventh as San Diego split the four-game series.



New York Mets designated hitter Pete Alonso (20) scores off of an RBI double from New York Mets' Eduardo Escobar against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the bottom of the sixth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 17, 2022 in New York.

The Padres loaded the bases in the second inning against Bryce Elder (1-1). Austin Nola was hit by a pitch, and Jake Cronenworth followed with an RBI fielder's-choice grounder.

Taylor Rogers retired the Braves in order in the ninth for his fourth save, closing out a four-hitter for San Diego.

Orioles 5, Yankees 0

In Baltimore, Rowned Odor broke a scoreless tie with a two-run single in the eighth inning and Baltimore beat New York.

Odor, who played for the Yankees last year, came on to pinch-hit with the bases loaded and two outs. He singled sharply up the middle against Jonathan Loáisiga (0-1).

Kelvin Gutiérrez followed with a two-run double, and Jorge Mateo added an RBI single.

Jorge López (1-1) won in relief for Baltimore, which took two of three against the Yankees, with both victories coming in its final at-bat.

Cubs 6, Rockies 4

In Denver, Seiya Suzuki hit his fourth home run, extending an impressive start to his major league career, and Chicago beat Colorado.

Suzuki is batting .400 and has hit safely in eight straight games with an at-bat. Willson Contreras also went deep for the Cubs.

Rowan Wick (1-0) won in relief and David Robertson earned his third save.

The Cubs roughed up Colorado starter Austin Gomber (0-1) for five runs — four earned — in 4 1/3 innings.

Giants 8, Guardians 1

In Cleveland, Thairo Estrada

homered and drove in four runs, Alex Wood continued San Francisco's superb starting pitching and the Giants completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Estrada hit a two-run homer off Aaron Civale (0-1) in the second inning and Brandon Belt added a two-run shot in the seventh as the Giants won their fifth straight.

Wood (1-0) allowed just four hits without a run over five innings before turning it over to San Francisco's bullpen.

It was the ninth straight game in which a Giants starter allowed two runs or fewer, the second longest streak since 1901.

Blue Jays 4, Athletics 3

In Toronto, Alek Manoah struck out six over six innings to win his second straight start, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had two hits and scored twice, and Toronto beat Oakland.

Manoah (2-0) allowed two runs and four hits for the AL East-leading Blue Jays.

Left-hander Tim Lincecum pitched 1 1/3 innings, Adam Cimber got two outs and Jordan Romano finished, extending his Blue Jays record streak of consecutive save conversions to 29. Romano leads the majors with six saves.

Making the second start of his career, Oakland right-hander Adam Oller (0-1) allowed three runs and five hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Red Sox 8, Twins 1

In Boston, Michael Wacha pitched five shutout innings in his Fenway Park debut with Boston and Trevor Story drove in his first two runs

in his new home, leading the Red Sox past Minnesota.

J.D. Martinez had an RBI double and sacrifice fly for Boston.

Wacha allowed a single with five strikeouts and two walks. Reliever Matt Strahm (1-0) got four outs.

Bailey Ober (1-1) gave up two unearned runs and four hits in six innings, walking one and striking out three.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 5

In Milwaukee, Tyrone Taylor hit a two-run double in the seventh inning and Milwaukee outlasted Albert Pujols and St. Louis Cardinals.

Pujols hit his 681st career homer, a three-run shot in the third inning off Aaron Ashby that tied the game at 3, but the Brewers regained the lead in the fourth on Willy Adames' bases-loaded walk and held on from there.

Taylor's seventh-inning double made it 6-3. St. Louis got within one in the eighth against Devin Williams, but Josh Hader struck out two during a perfect ninth for his fourth save of the season and 100th of his career.

Jake Cousins (2-0) worked a scoreless fifth for Milwaukee. St. Louis starter Dakota Hudson (0-1) allowed four runs, three earned, in three innings.

Rays 9, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Randy Arozarena doubled twice and finished with three hits Tampa Bay beat Chicago to stop a four-game slide.

Manuel Margot also had three hits for the Rays, including a double. Kevin Kiermaier and Francisco Mejia each drove in two runs.

J.P. Feyereisen opened for

Tampa Bay, then was followed by Chris Mazza (1-0), Jalen Beeks, Ryan Thompson and Tommy Romero as the defending AL East champions patched together a three-hitter that included five walks — plus a hit batter and passed ball that scored Chicago's first two runs.

The Rays sent 10 batters to the plate in the first against Vince Velasquez (0-1). The right-hander threw 35 pitches and 20 strikes in the inning, then settled down to go 4 2/3 innings.

Mariners 7, Astros 2

In Seattle, Ty France hit a three-run homer, rookie starter Matt Brash took an odd no-hit bid into the sixth inning, and Seattle took three of four from Houston.

The Mariners executed four double plays in the first four innings as they built a 6-0 lead behind Brash (1-1), who got his first career win.

The 23-year-old right-hander held the Astros hitless before Jose Altuve singled in the sixth and Michael Brantley followed with a two-run homer. Brash finished with five strikeouts and two hits in 5 1/3 innings.

The Mariners broke open a 1-0 game in the fourth inning against José Urquidy (1-1) with a pair of lucky one-out bounces.

Marlins 11, Phillies 5

In Miami, Jazz Chisholm Jr. tripled, doubled and drove in three runs, and Miami beat Zack Wheeler and Philadelphia.

Jesús Sánchez had three hits and two RBIs for the Marlins, who won three of four against the Phillies.

Miami starter Elieser Hernández (1-1) allowed a run and five hits in six innings.

Bryce Harper homered for Philadelphia and had an RBI double. The Phillies have lost five of six.

The Marlins chased Wheeler (0-2) in the fourth inning. He allowed seven runs and eight hits.

Pirates 5, Nationals 3

In Pittsburgh, Michael Chavis drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as Pittsburgh came from behind and took a four-game series against Washington.

Chavis' single to left field against reliever Steve Cishek (0-1) scored Josh VanMeter to put the Pirates ahead and complete the comeback from down 3-0.

Heath Hembree (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. David Bednar picked up his first save of the season.

Scheffler’s dominant stretch illustrates parity

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Start with Scottie Scheffler winning four times in two months.

Now consider the money. His PGA Tour earnings in his past six tournaments — dating to his first victory in the Phoenix Open on Feb. 13 — come to \$8,872,200.

With consideration to purse increases and the Tour Championship no longer offering official prize money, Scheffler has made more in two months than what would have won the PGA Tour money title in four of the past eight seasons.

Golf hasn’t seen a stretch this torrid since Jason Day rattled off four wins in six starts, including the PGA Championship, in the summer of 2015. And he wasn’t even the best player that year: Jordan Spieth’s five wins that year included two majors and the FedEx Cup.

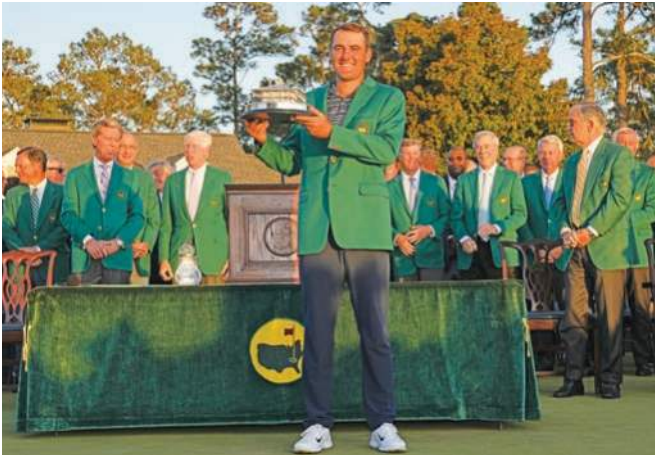
Amazing as what Scheffler has done, it’s too soon to think of him as golf’s next dominant player because no one ever seems to know how long it will last.

If anything, it’s an illustration of golf’s parity.

It also is a reminder of the Tiger Woods effect, and those ripples stretch even further the longer he is able to play.

“I played Tiger’s irons. Wore his shoes. Wore his shirt this week,” Scheffler said. “He is the needle for the game of golf. he has completely changed the PGA Tour from when he came on 25 years ago. And his YouTube clips are such an inspiration for me.”

One in particular that stood out to Scheffler was Woods winning his first Masters in 1997, a watershed moment in golf. Woods led by nine going into the final round and never lost focus even as the lead



AP
Scottie Scheffler holds the championship trophy after winning the 86th Masters golf tournament on Sunday, April 10, 2022, in Augusta, Ga.

stretched to a record 12 shots.

“He never really broke his concentration. That’s something that I reminded myself of today,” Scheffler said Sunday. “I tried to keep my head down and just keep doing what I was doing because I didn’t want to break my concentration.”

That only changed when he

had a five-shot lead on the 18th green. He four-putted.

“Thank you, Tiger,” Scheffler said with a laugh.

The influence has been around since Woods returned to No. 1 in the world for the final time in the spring of 2013 and stayed at the top until the first of five back surgeries.

Patrick Reed at the end of

2014 recalled how he grew up studying Woods, particularly his focus. “You could see it just by looking at him in the eyes. If looks could kill, he would literally kill you. He was just so focused and determined to play well,” he said.

A year later, Spieth and Day ended 2015 at Nos. 1-2 in the world after their five-win seasons, with Rory McIlroy right behind. It felt like the start of a new “Big Three.”

It wasn’t, and Spieth said as much while preaching patience and perspective. “In order to create an era, you almost need a decade of years like this,” he said then.

Spieth and Day became the third and fourth players to reach No. 1 after Woods began his series of back surgeries. Six more players have followed since then: Dustin Johnson, Justin Thomas, Justin Rose, Brooks Koepka, Jon Rahm and now Scheffler.

The list nearly included —

and probably should have, if only briefly — Collin Morikawa, who already has two majors among six worldwide wins as he approaches his three-year anniversary of turning pro.

Rahm looked back at the past seven years and rattled off so many names he feared he left someone off the list (he missed one, easy to do without notes). He referred to it as “a perfect example of the Tiger effect.”

Most of the players who have reached the top of golf are roughly in the same age group, from Scheffler (25) to McIlroy (32).

“We all grew up watching Tiger. We all grew up wanting to be him, and we all grew up with the dream of being major champions,” Rahm said. “With the advancement in golf, in all of us thinking of ourselves as athletes, you can see the difference. Everybody can reach a new level.”

KURODA

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again tackle it.

“I want to apologize to the people who supported me. I am sure to finish next time... I couldn’t finish the race and kept crying for two days, but I will definitely come back and finish. I will continue to challenge myself for what I want to accomplish. I swear to all my

friends that I will be more and more stronger.”

Despite being forced to retire, the Tokyo, Japan native said his experience racing in the largest desert in the world was unforgettable and he gained a lot of friends during the Marathon Des Sables.

“I met many wonderful people through the race from all around the world. I want to tell everyone, ‘don’t be afraid of challenges and challenge what

you want to do. Make an effort for that and enjoy it.”

The Marathon Des Sables was topped by Morocco’s Rachid El Morabity (18:34:34) with Spain’s Anna Comet finishing as the top woman (24:18:33)

Kuroda left Saipan early last month after making the island his home for four years. He quickly made a name for himself in local running circles despite not really tak-

ing the sport seriously before arriving on Saipan in May 2018. Among his victories on island the past year where the 2021 Gecko 5000 8-kilometer men’s cross country race, the 2021 Michelob Ultra 4-Mile

Run For Taste, and the 2021 Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon.

Incidentally, he will be one of the nominees for tonight’s 2021 Male Athlete of the Year award in the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet at the Kens-

ington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan. Kuroda became a finalist after winning the 6th Saipan Aquathlon (5km run/1km swim/2.5km run) in February 2021 in a time of 56:19.

DEEZ

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friends even before we decided to create a team and join the league. Chemistry was already developed. Playing darts was just something to do when we’re hanging out and from that is when we decided to create a team.’

It’s not to say that everything during the season was smooth sailing though, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed everything on how you play sports.

“We encountered some challenges due to COVID-19, just like any other team, but whenever someone couldn’t make it to the game because of it, we acknowledged the mantra of ‘next man up’ and we really did thrive when our backs were against the wall or written off because we weren’t complete. We thrived off of that energy and we’re fortunate to get the victories needed to secure the win.”

Rivera thanked their team members’ families and especially their wives for allowing them to play every Wednesday. He also extended his gratitude to their supporters led by home bar Safehouse, sponsor Her-

man’s Modern Bakery, and Roil Soil for creating their team jerseys.

“Winning the C Division is a true testament of who we are as a team and as a group of friends, never giving up on each other. We were determined every game to win although we experienced a few bumps, we were undeterred and looked forward to the next game,” added Rivera.

Aside from Rivera, Safehouse Deez Darts is also made up of Joe Hofschneider, Daryl Deleon Guerrero, Ben “Flow” Flores, John Moore, Chris Torres, John “Kiyu” Villagomez, Dario “The Derminator” Jones, and Vinson Deleon Guerrero.

Coming in second in the C Division was Johnny’s Twisted Tribe with a 203-127 team standings following by third place 6JMS Seikid C after finishing the season with a 202-128 record.

In the Tuesday B Division, 6JMS Hella Dart took the championship with a 185-115 win-loss record. Just Chillin’ BulaChel’s and 6JMS Champinos came in second and third with a 177-123 and 176-125 records, respectively. 6JMS Hella Dart is skippered by Jared Ayuyu and populated

by Stan Ngalen, Ping Kapileo, Mike Iguel, Peter “The Rob-inHood” Mendiola, and Toby “T-Bag” Castro.

True North Vipers topped the Flame Tree B Division with a record of 173-82 followed by Oleai Smokers (150-90) and True North Familia (141-114). The champions are made up of team captain Julian Matsutaro, Jarvin “Stinger” Mendiola, Manny Degracia, Tanner Maratita, Vicente Cepeda, John Rebuenog, Mike Dela Cruz, Ramboo Cuellar, and Jarrett Matsutaro.

In the Fanihi B Division, 6JMS Bandits were crowned champions after finishing the season with a 182-133 record. Bistro Pues OK and Tambayan Distorted B came in second with win-loss records of 177-138 and 171-144, respectively. Carlos “Corona” Cervania skippered 6JMS Bandits and the players include Elton Santos, Nate Torres, Augustin Hocog, Martin Dela Cruz, Ben Aldan, and Colen Duenas.

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association as well as the Saipan Billiards Association is managed by Pacific Amusement with the help of MARPAC, Bud Light, and Budweiser.

BATTLE

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volleyball players to come out and show off our local talent in this event. In addition, if anyone would like to volunteer for the beach volleyball event at the Pacific Mini Games, please contact NMIVA,” she added.

Quan also said that the 25th Marianas Cup: Battle of the Beach will continue to serve as training ground for the CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the Mini Games.

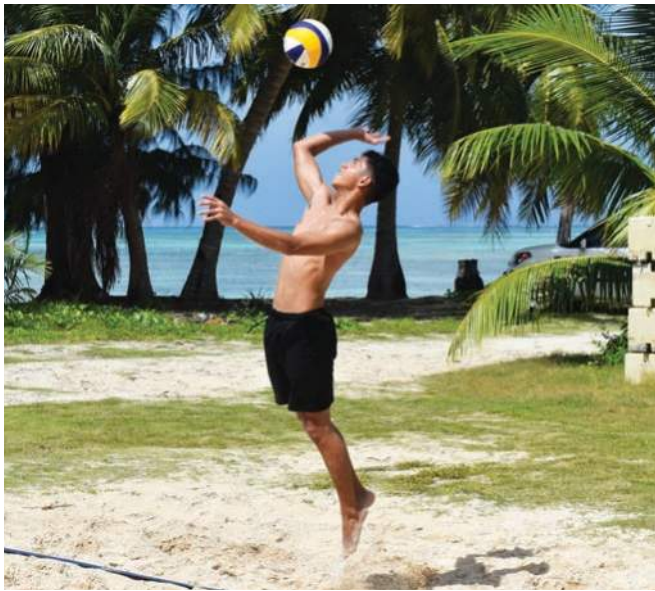
“As for the CNMI men’s and women’s national teams, there are eight men and eight women who have made the preliminary consideration and

have been nominated to represent the CNMI in the Pacific Mini Games.”

Those who want to volunteer for the beach volleyball event of the Mini Games, email NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com to sign up.

Beach volleyball is expected to draw 64 players in next year’s Mini Games with majority of the matches to be played at the expansive beach of Crowne Plaza Resort (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan). In addition, Tinian will also be hosting the consolation matches for the sport with fourth, fifth, and sixth places to be decided on the island’s beaches.

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee



MARK RABAGO

The two-day 25th Marianas Cup: Battle of the Beach is set for this coming weekend, April 23 and 24, at the sand courts of the Crowne Plaza Resort.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	6	4	.600	
Boston	5	4	.556	½
New York	5	5	.500	1
Tampa Bay	5	5	.500	1
Baltimore	3	6	.333	2½

Central Division

Chicago	6	3	.667	
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2
Detroit	4	5	.444	2
Kansas City	3	5	.375	2½
Minnesota	3	6	.333	3

West Division

Los Angeles	6	4	.600	
Houston	5	4	.556	½
Oakland	5	5	.500	1
Seattle	5	5	.500	1
Texas	2	7	.222	3½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	7	3	.700	
Atlanta	5	6	.455	2½
Miami	4	5	.444	2½
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3
Washington	4	7	.364	3½

Central Division

St. Louis	5	3	.625	
Chicago	5	4	.556	½
Pittsburgh	5	4	.556	½
Milwaukee	5	5	.500	1
Cincinnati	2	8	.200	4

West Division

Los Angeles	7	2	.778	
San Francisco	7	2	.778	
Colorado	6	3	.667	1
San Diego	6	5	.545	2
Arizona	3	6	.333	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tatum's layup at buzzer gives Celtics 115-114 win over Nets

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Scheffler's dominant stretch illustrates parity

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kuroda vows to come back stronger for desert race



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the six-day, 251-kilometer ultramarathon Marathon Des Sables take their first steps in the Sahara Desert.

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Run Saipan's Shuji Kuroda failed to finish the Marathon Des Sables in Morocco, but vowed to come back stronger and finally cross out the six-day, 251-kilometer ultramarathon off his bucket list.

"I had heat stroke and dehydration in the second stage and I became a 'doctor stop' decision because of my high fever. I'll avenge [my failure to finish] next time," said the 32-year-old former Grandvrio

Resort Saipan F&B assistant manager.

Kuroda said he was doing 100th place until a brutal sandstorm in Morocco's Sahara Desert knocked him out at the start of the second stage.



"I got caught up in a sandstorm on the way and got sick because of that. The vomiting did not stop and the doctor approached me and told me to stop until my fever went down...I waited for about three hours until my fever went down, but the fever did not go down and the doctor told me to retire..."

Kuroda said he's going to train harder so he can give himself a better chance to complete the Marathon Des Sables when he decides to

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shuji Kuroda, left, poses with fellow ultramarathoners from Japan before the first stage of the Marathon Des Sables in Morocco.

Deez Darts captures C Division of SEDA Dart League

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Safehouse Deez Darts banked on team chemistry developed by years' long friendships to win the C Division of the 2021-2022 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League that held its awards banquet last Saturday at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The team made up of greenhorns won the division running away with a win-loss record of 218-112 and team captain Carlos Rivera attributes the championship season to their continued commitment, determination, and improvement throughout the season.

"We were an underrated team when the season be-

gan due to most of us being in our first year joining the league, but we hung in there every game, every Wednesday, played to our strengths to win games," he said.

Rivera said it also helped that all team members know each other very well for being lifelong friends.

"All of us are all good

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MARK RABAGO

Safehouse Deez Darts players receive their championship trophies for topping the C Division of the 2021-2022 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Dart League during the awards banquet last Saturday at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Battle of the Beach is dry run for Mini Games

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The Northern Marianas Volleyball Association will be using this weekend's 25th Marianas Cup: Battle of the Beach as a dry run for the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The two-day Battle of the Beach is a 2 vs. 2 men's and women's tournament and NMIVA president Somia Quan said they will use the tournament as a dress rehearsal for the Mini Games set in June this year.

"The Battle of the Beach is a tournament that NMIVA is organizing as a dry-run for the hosting committee leading up to the Mini Games. This will help us fine-tune the logistics and process and supplement any areas where we are lacking in resources or materials," she said.

The 25th Marianas Cup:

Battle of the Beach will be held this coming Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24, at the Crowne Plaza Resort sand courts. Quan is hoping to have at least 12 women's teams and 12 men's teams to participate in the tournament. Already confirmed are volleyball play-

ers from Guam.

"Guam is sending a strong contingent of their national teams to play in this tournament. We hope to have a couple of men's teams from Palau participate as well. We welcome any and all beach

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